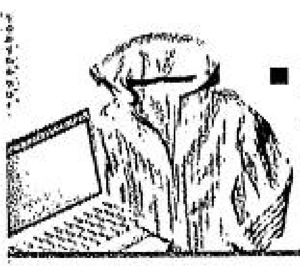


2bU! / C1
What to expect in '05 in sports, fashion, music & technology

Business / B1
One local, 3 foreign groups bidding for MRT-3 extension

World / A8
Baghdad governor assassinated

Across / A16
GMA irked by Mansion House graft report, dismisses 2 caretakers

Sports / A19
Taskmaster Chot Reyes named RP five coach

'Rosebud' accuses Mike A of blocking P3-M agent fees

By Philip C. Tubeza and Armand N. Nocum

BATTLE ROYAL coming up: Mary "Rosebud" Ong vs President Macapagal-Arroyo's husband, Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo.

In a letter to the President, the controversial police agent yesterday accused Mike Ar-

NOW/ A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

DOH: 'Zulican virus' on seafood does not exist

By Blanche S. Rivera

WALANG MAGAWA ANG NAGKALAT NG HOAX NA TO!

TEXT messages about a deadly virus supposedly spreading in Asia through the consumption of seafoods should not be believed, the Department

DOH/ A4

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

Wednesday, January 5, 2005 ★★ 40 pages / 3 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 28 P18

website: www.inq7.net

GMA last say on Jalosjos

DOJ chief admits decision political

By Philip C. Tubeza, Cynthia D. Balana and Christian V. Esguerra

JUSTICE Secretary Raul Gonzalez yesterday admitted that politics would have a significant role in the issue of whether to grant executive clemency to convicted rapist Romeo Jalosjos.

"Every pardon issued by the President is a political decision," Gonzalez said. But he reiterated that the administration had yet to decide on what to do with the ex-lawmaker from Zamboanga del Norte convicted in 1997 of raping an 11-year-old girl.

"There is really 'the decision,' and that decision is Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's," Gonzalez said, at the same time noting that a resolution signed by 50 congressmen calling for the pardon of Jalosjos would probably have "some persuasive effect."

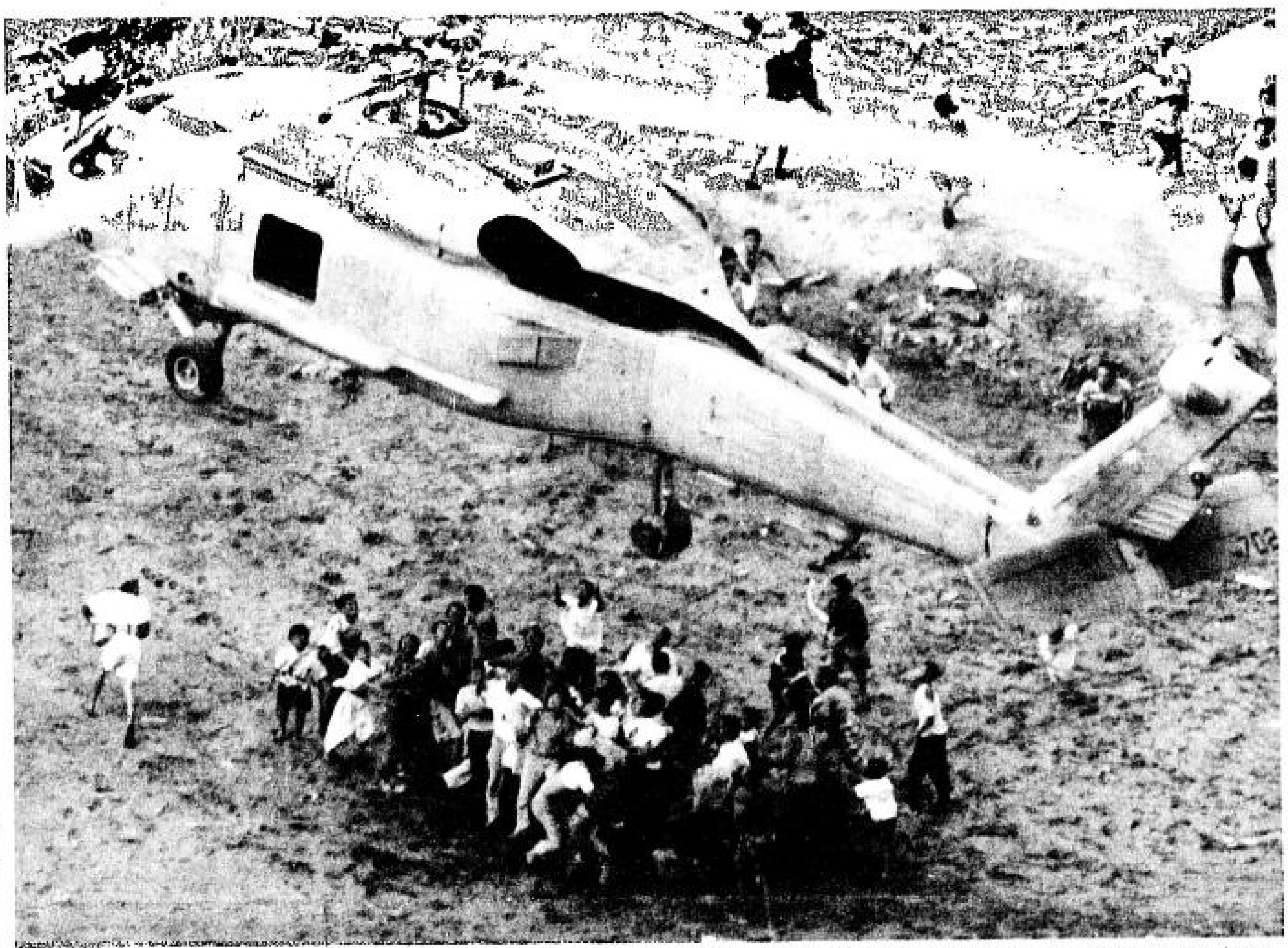
"But [is it] legally binding? No. The pardon must come from the Chief Executive," he said.

Activist and anticrime groups had called on the President not to pardon Jalosjos, who is said to be seriously ill.

When asked about the opposition posed by lawyer Katrina Legarda and anticrime groups, Gonzalez said: "There's one Katrina Legarda. I do not know if that can match the 50 representatives."

The Equal Justice for All Movement (E-Just), a nationwide alliance of 16 anticrime organizations including the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption, Council on Philippine Affairs and Couples for Christ, suspects that the effort to win a pardon for

GMA/ A6



THE UNIMAGINABLE destruction of infrastructure in Banda Aceh prevents this heavy transport helicopter of the aircraft carrier Abraham Lincoln from landing forcing it to drop supplies from the air to the hungry lot below. The arrival of a fleet of US warships has stepped up aid distribution in Aceh, the worst hit of 11 countries whipped by the tsunamis. REUTERS

Boyfriend knew from bracelet it was his Joy

By Michael B. Jaucian
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau
and TJ Burgonio

LEGAZPI CITY—On seeing her remains inside a Buddhist temple in Thailand, Kathryn Joy Lomadilla's boyfriend immediately knew from the bracelet she wore that it was his missing sweetheart.

The Thai family, which had initially claimed the body, swore it was theirs.

"Pero ipinaglaban niya talaga (But he stood his ground and insisted it was her)," Lomadilla's mother, Rose, told the INQUIRER yesterday, recounting how her family was able to recover the remains of Joy, one of the thousands of people killed in the tsunamis that swamped Thailand's beach resorts.

A sister also recognized Joy by her dress and a DNA test further confirmed her identity, Rose said on the phone.

There had been confusion over the body because a rich Thai family had originally claimed it.

Rose said her daughter Joy's boyfriend, whom she identified as Jay William Decayco, a pianist, also examined his sweetheart's dentures and confirmed from the fillings that the body was that of his girlfriend.

"He knew from the bracelet that it was her because it was he who gave it to Joy and it was similar to

BOYFRIEND/ A4

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

THE DANCER from Pangpang, Sorsogon, Kathryn Joy Lomadilla, in Phuket.

Presidents, rock stars lead drive for victims

FORMER presidents and film and rock stars in the United States launched new initiatives yesterday to raise tens of millions of dollars for millions of people in Asia and Africa left destitute by cataclysmic tsunami waves.

Two days ahead of a crisis summit of world leaders in worst-hit Indonesia, the unprecedented flow of donations for survivors was so overwhelming that one aid agency in Australia told donors to stop giving.

Faced with the nightmare of distributing supplies to remote areas swamped by tsunamis that killed about 150,000 people, the massive relief operation suffered a hitch when a relief plane hit a herd of cows, forcing the closure of the main airport at Indonesia's battered Sumatra island.

US President George W. Bush put his father, George Bush, and his predecessor, Bill Clinton, in charge of efforts to raise private US donations for countries devastated by the tsunamis.

Flanked by the two former presidents, Bush urged US citizens and businesses to give cash to charities already helping countries pummeled by the strongest earthquake in four decades and its resulting tidal waves.

The President said: "In this situation, cash donations are most useful, and I've asked the former presidents to solicit contributions both large and small."

Clinton and the elder Bush said they might visit the devastated areas later.

"In the short run, the need runs into the billions," Clinton said.

"And, between public and private commitments now, we're up to about $3 billion. The American government will probably be called upon to do the most for long-term reconstruction," the

PRESIDENTS/ A4

Erap: Gloria close to Jimenez, not me

By Armand N. Nocum

A FUMING deposed President Joseph Estrada yesterday said he had no business talking with convicted former Manila Rep. Mark Jimenez whom he banished from Malacañang less than a year after appointing him as an adviser.

Calling from Hong Kong where he underwent a knee-replacement operation, Estrada said the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo would have more need to talk to Jimenez because of his alleged closeness to the First Couple and some members of the Cabinet.

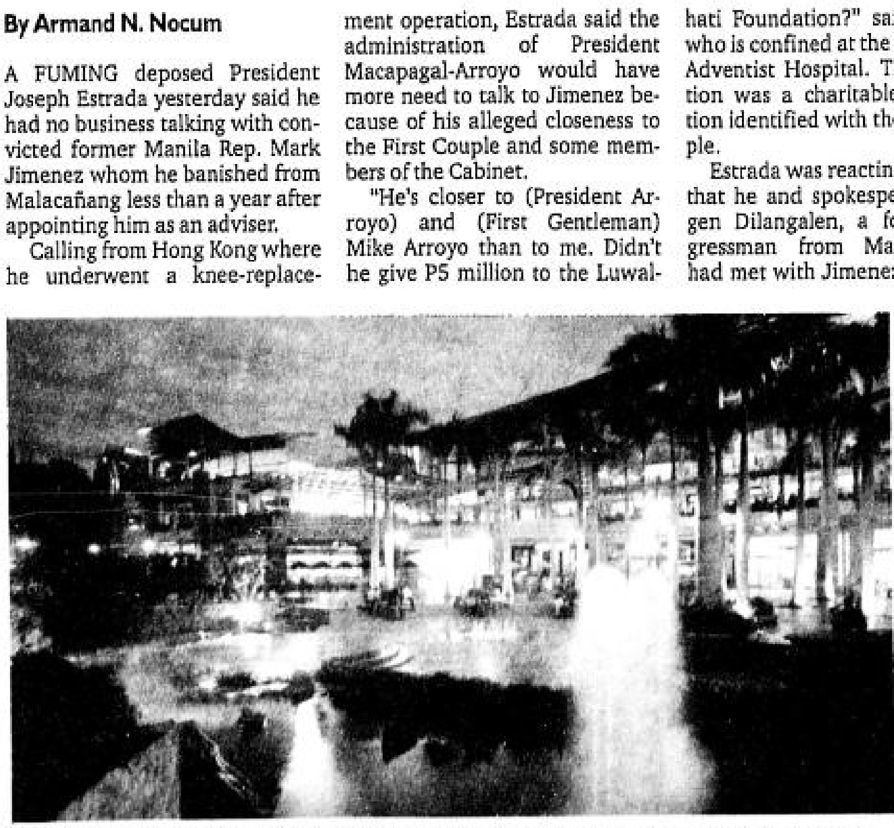
"He's closer to (President Arroyo) and (First Gentleman) Mike Arroyo than to me. Didn't he give P5 million to the Luwalhati Foundation?" said Estrada, who is confined at the Hong Kong Adventist Hospital. The foundation was a charitable organization identified with the First Couple.

Estrada was reacting to reports that he and spokesperson Didagen Dilangalen, a former congressman from Maguindanao, had met with Jimenez in a Hong Kong mall on Dec. 27, a few days before he went under the knife.

Estrada's son Sen. Jinggoy Estrada had said that Jimenez could not have been in Hong Kong because he was still in a US prison.

The Southern District Court of Miami sentenced Jimenez to 27 months in prison on Nov. 14,

ERAP/ A7



WORLD-CLASS redesign of the Greenbelt shopping center bested 39 other shopping centers.

Greenbelt reaps int'l design award

WHERE centuries ago Filipinos converged in town plazas during festive occasions, today they do so at the mall. The multitudes that thronged the Metro Manila malls for the 2004 yearend celebrations surely provide the statistics to prove this.

No one is more attuned to the Filipino's strong sense of community and fondness for socializing than the country's premier property developer, Ayala Land Inc. (ALI).

ALI's recent redesign of the Greenbelt shopping center in Makati has earned acceptance by the community and the awards have followed.

Last month, the International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC), the world's biggest

GREENBELT/ A7

TALES OF THE CITI

Investor says giant bank gave her the runaround

By Doris C. Dumlao
Business

(Second of four parts)

SPECIAL REPORT

Project Editor:
Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

INSTEAD of terminating the investment of Concepcion Poblador after a period of 18 months, as originally promised, Emily Santos, the Citibank relationship manager, took money out of Poblador's time deposit to buy more Benpres bonds.

Poblador said this was contrary to her repeated instructions for Santos to unload her Benpres investments.

"When I confronted Emily (Santos) in October 1999 [on the rare occasion that Poblador said she was able to contact the account officer] as to why she put [the money] back into Benpres even though I had told her I needed the money, she could not answer me," Poblador said.

"I told her to sell Benpres. She told me I would be losing. I would only get 90 percent of my money. I told her [to] go ahead and sell it anyway. She said she could not do that because there were no buyers. So I said, 'sell it as soon as you can.'"

Santos did not, although Benpres was still actively trading on the bond market until September 2000.

Poblador said she insisted on the revocation of the trust agreement even if she had already suffered a loss on the Benpres bonds. Citibank then instructed her to contact Cedel (the Luxembourg-based Clearstream Bank), which she found was a mere clearinghouse for the bonds.

"This was done to frustrate my moves to revoke the trust agreement with them and let another bank handle it. They even had the

INVESTOR/ A7

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern Luzon will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. Eastern Visayas and Mindanao will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers or isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/01/05/05

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	**Iloilo/Bacolod**	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	**Roxas**	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	**Cebu**	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	**Tacloban**	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	**Gen. Santos**	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	**Zamboanga**	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	**Cagayan de Oro**	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	**Davao**	Cloudy with Rains

Second FRONT PAGE

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Gov't told to pay Piatco $62M

By Ruth L. Navarra

A LOWER court yesterday ordered the government to pay $62.34 million as partial payment to a consortium led by Philippine International Air Terminals Co. Inc. (Piatco) which built the Naia Terminal III that the government expropriated in December last year.

In a four-page order, Pasay Regional Trial Court Judge Henrick Gingoyon directed the Land Bank of the Philippines-Baclaran Branch to release the amount of $62.34 million immediately to Piatco which will be deducted from the amount of just compensation due Piatco to be determined by the court.

The government through the Office of the Solicitor General has filed an expropriation case against Piatco on Dec. 21 in a bid to finally open the airport terminal by June this year.

In the meanwhile, the court allowed the government to maintain, preserve and safeguard the airport terminal and "perform acts or activities in preparation for their direct operation" of the terminal until the expropriation proceedings is underway.

The court, however, barred the government from awarding concessions or leasing any part of the terminal to other parties.

Piatco spokesperson Liwayway Chato welcomed the court ruling, but assailed the government takeover of the facility before the court order was issued and just compensation fully paid.

Chatco warned that Fraport AG of Germany, a member of the Piatco consortium, would demand the payment of full "replacement cost" before the government takes over the facility.

Chato said that if the two sides cannot agree on compensation, the court would have to determine the amount within 60 days. Fraport is seeking compensation of $465 million for the facility. Lawmakers also welcomed the court ruling.

"One can't take possession of a property unless and until just compensation has been paid," said Sen. Edgardo Angara, adding the decision augurs well for the return of investors confidence in the country.

"It's a good decision because foreigners may rest content in the thought that if their property is expropriated they will be paid promptly with a just compensation," Angara said.

Senators Juan Ponce Enrile and Alfredo Lim also said the government could not exercise ownership over Naia 3 without full payment of just compensation as mandated by the Constitution.

Thus, Lim said the government takeover of Naia 3 a few weeks ago was premature.

At the same time, Enrile urged the government to observe caution in dealing with the Naia 3 issue because of complications with other foreign governments whose citizens have invested money in the project.

The terminal has been mothballed since 2003 when President Macapagal-Arroyo revoked Piatco's "build-operate-transfer" contract with the government on the grounds that certain terms were illegally renegotiated by her deposed predecessor Joseph Estrada in 1998.

The case is under arbitration before the World Bank's International Center for Settlement of Investment Disputes. *With a report from Michael Lim Ubac*

QUORUM IN DOUBT

'Iffy' special session starts today

By Carlito Pablo,
Christine O. Avendaño
and Juliet Labog-Javellana

CONGRESS starts its three-day special session today amid skepticism on how much such an assembly can deliver in passing pending tax measures in the face of an impending credit downgrade for the country.

"The outlook is iffy," said House Deputy Majority Leader Rep. Eduardo Gullas (Alayon, Cebu).

Gullas said that Malacañang is apparently putting much hope that one revenue measure at most can be produced during the Jan. 5-7 special session so President Macapagal-Arroyo can sign it into law.

He said that this measure, if any, would only be the second, after Ms Arroyo signed late last year the bill increasing the excise taxes on cigarettes and alcohol.

The President called the special session to pass the lateral attrition bill meant to improve revenue collection, one of eight tax measures she asked Congress to pass to address the fiscal crisis.

Rep. Robert Ace Barbers (Lakas, Surigao del Norte) said that at best, the special session is a "mere show to stay the hand of international credit rating agencies."

Barbers also said that the success of the session would rest significantly on whether the Senate can, for one, muster a quorum, and second, pass two pending tax bills earlier approved by the House.

"It looks like we will have a quorum in the House but the question is can the Senate finish the two bills so we can go into bicameral conference committee deliberations?" Barbers said, referring to the lateral attrition and tax amnesty bills.

Rep. Joel Virador (party-list Bayan Muna) said that Malacañang's call for a special session indicates that the administration is more concerned about a credit downgrade than the toll of new taxes on ordinary citizens.

Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan was confident that the 23-member Senate would have a quorum today.

In a text message, Pangilinan said: "Less than a third of the senators are out of the country. Hence, we can have a quorum of 50 percent plus one, which is 12."

Gabriel Claudio, who supervises the Presidential Legislative Liaison Office, said 17 senators and 181 congressmen had confirmed their attendance in the special session which would cut short their holiday recess by three days.

He said Senate President Franklin Drilon and Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. were also cutting their overseas trips to attend the session.

Sen. Ralph Recto expressed misgivings on whether Congress would be able to pass the lateral attrition bill. He said he'd rather have measures that aim to put a "reward and sanction system" on government collection agencies.

In fact, Recto felt Malacañang should have prioritized the proposals to raise the rate of the Value-Added Tax and lift its exemptions, instead of the lateral attrition bill for this special session.

The senator said the VAT bill could generate P35 billion in revenues for government while the lateral attrition bill was a "management tool" which aims to improve the tax efficiency of government.

Another general, another Garcia face graft raps

By Volt Contreras

AN AIR Force general and three others are facing graft and malversation charges before the Sandiganbayan in connection with the irregular auction of government property in 2002, according to Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo yesterday.

This is the latest in a series of graft charges filed against prominent military officials in recent months in a corruption crackdown.

Based on the charge sheet approved by Marcelo, Air Force Gen. Vladimir Binondo Delos Trino, Maj. Antonio Jason Garcia and military engineer Dante Nelmida Senen conspired with Antonio Ularte, the favored bidder representing Eduard Enterprises, to defraud the government.

In a statement, Assistant Ombudsman Ernesto Nocos said antigraft investigators found the sale of four power generators used at the Mactan Benito Ebuen Air Base "without proper authorization" and "disadvantageous to the government."

The respondents disregarded a higher bid proposal of P1.2 million from one Jose L. de Guzman and proceeded to dispose the power generators for P800,000. "The amount was directly received by Brig. Gen. Delos Trino who thereafter gave Maj. Garcia P20,000," Nocos said.

Delos Trino was then the commanding officer of the 2nd Tactical Operations Wing when he approved the sale of the air base equipment in May 2002. Garcia and Senen, meanwhile, facilitated the release and "unlawful" transaction with Ularte, according to Nocos.

Investigators have uncovered several cases of anomalies involving military officers following the announcement last October that Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia, the former chief financial officer of the Armed Forces, had amassed more than a million dollars in allegedly ill-gotten wealth.

Since then, a military aide to Garcia and a retired Philippine military chief have faced corruption charges for allegedly amassing wealth well beyond their normal salaries.

Garcia is being court-martialed.

There have been complaints the graft charges are demoralizing the Armed Forces but President Macapagal-Arroyo has pledged to crack down on military corruption after surviving a revolt by disgruntled junior officers in July 2003. *With a report from AFP*

Reds attack as truce ends

ONLY a day after their two-week Christmas ceasefire ended, suspected communist New People's Army guerrillas attacked a military outpost in Puerto Princesa City, on Monday night, the military said yesterday.

No one was hurt when armed men on board two vans fired on an Army detachment in Barangay Tanabag, Puerto Princesa City, said Armed Forces Western Command spokesperson Col. Ramon Yugyug.

"The only group that comes to mind are the leftists whose ceasefire just expired," Yugyug said in a radio interview.

One of the vans used in the attack was later found abandoned, he said.

The Communist Party of the Philippines ended its unilateral ceasefire on Jan. 2. The military's three-week Christmas ceasefire ends on Jan. 5.

The communist rebels earlier warned that they would resume their attacks against government forces once their Christmas truce ended.

The military has reported that about 400 rebels and government soldiers were slain in more than 1,000 engagements nationwide last year. Of the 223 slain rebels, 182 were communist insurgents.

The 8,400-strong NPA is the armed wing of the CPP which has been waging an armed struggle for the past 35 years.

The CPP marked its 36th founding anniversary last Dec. 26 while the NPA will celebrate its 36th anniversary on March 29.

Formal peace negotiations between government and the communist insurgents were stalled in August the National Democratic Front, the political arm of the CPP which is representing the insurgents, withdrew from the negotiating table. *Alcuin Papa*

SHARP
IMAGER
The Only Digital Copier You Need.

Growing risks?

As your business grows, so do the risks involved.
Keep your company secrets safe with the Sharp Data Security Kit (DSK). The first to receive a Common Criteria validation worldwide, the **Sharp DSK erases and encrypts company data that is automatically stored in your copier's hard disk** each and every time a document is scanned, copied or printed. This way you can prevent vital information from getting into the wrong hands. Further protect your growing business with ***Sharpdesk*™**, a revolutionary document management system that drastically streamlines workflow ensuring optimum productivity and helping you sustain growth.

Sharp, best for your business.

Sharpdesk™, your document management solutions partner.

DATA SECURITY KIT

C-Copy Manila
Tel: 245-9110; 245-9112; 245-9114; 245-4640 to 41
Fax: 245-9109

C-Copy Ortigas
Tels: 631-8714 to 18
Fax: 631-8719

C-Copy Alabang
Tels: 775-0614 to 17
Fax: 775-0613

C-Copy Calamba
Tels: (049) 545-9042 to 44
Fax: (049) 545-9045

C-Copy Makati
Tels: 521-2574

C-Copy Quezon City
Tel: 372-0176 to 79
Fax: 372-0174

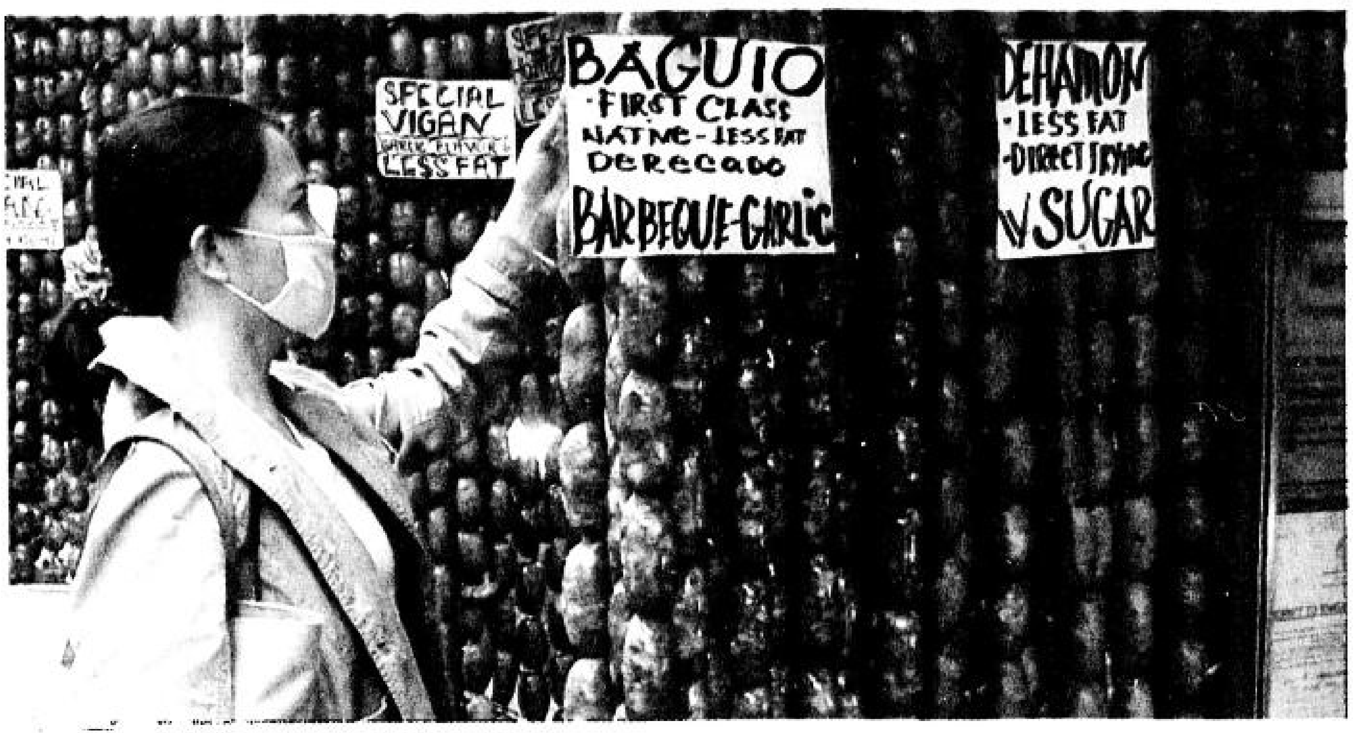
C-Copy Cebu
Tel: (032) 346-2985; (032) 346-3976; (032) 346-4665; (032) 420-5806

C-Copy
better.closer.working harder

5837 Zobel Roxas Street, Palanan, Makati City
Call Center: 525-9911 loc. 104/105

Copier Sales Fax: 525-9860
Service, Parts & Genuine Consumables
Fax: 525-9870

C-xclusive and authorized Master Distributor of SHARP genuine consumables & original parts.



LIFE GOES ON
The meningococcemia scare has not prevented people in Baguio City from venturing out of their homes, thanks to the surgical mask that has allowed this woman to go about her daily business at the public market. TOOTS SOBERANO

Palace to gov't agencies: Don't deal with tax cheats

PAY YOUR taxes first before you deal with government.

This was the advice of Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin to individuals, private companies and nongovernment organizations wishing to bag any government contract.

This year, according to Boncodin, President Macapagal-Arroyo wants all government agencies and state-owned companies to stop dealing with tax dodgers.

Boncodin told a briefing yesterday that the President was set to sign an executive order directing all government agencies and government-owned and -controlled corporations to require official Bureau of Internal Revenue income tax returns from individuals, private companies and nongovernment organizations before they enter into any contract with them.

According to Boncodin, Ms Arroyo is expected to sign the order before she flies today to Jakarta, Indonesia, to attend a special meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. The executive order was one of the key reforms endorsed by the Government Procurement Policy Board.

"It's part of our drive to flush out tax evaders in the country. It's our simple way of saying 'Pay your taxes before dealing with government,'" said Boncodin.

Boncodin said companies and individuals that bid for government contracts often present a different set of financial books as proof of tax payments. This practice, she said, should not be accepted by any government office.

It'll be a warm, dry January

EXPECT warm, rainless days in January.

The weather bureau Pagasa yesterday said that warmer-than-usual surface temperatures in the Pacific Ocean will result in below-average rainfall in January over most of the Visayas and northern Mindanao as the El Niño phenomenon conditions persist.

The latest El Niño advisory also showed that the start of the year would be warmer than recent past Januaries in the country with a temperature range of 13 degrees Celsius to 31 degrees in the mountainous areas of Luzon.

The mountainous areas of Luzon previously recorded some of the coldest temperatures in January with numbers as low as 7 degrees Celsius.

"Latest climate information and predictions suggest the persistence of above-average sea surface temperatures during the first quarter of 2005," said Pagasa officer-in-charge Prisco Nilo.

"It is therefore expected that January rainfall will be below average over most parts of the Visayas and northern Mindanao, including the northeastern section of Luzon," he added. *Norman Bordadora*

GMA to press fiscal reforms

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo will continue her painful fiscal reform measures this year such as raising the duty on petroleum products, prodding the collecting agencies to increase revenues, and jacking up government service fees to further trim down the budget deficit.

In a briefing, Finance Secretary Juanita Amatong said the government had originally set a budget deficit target of P184.5 billion this year, down by 7 percent from P198.7 billion last year.

But Amatong said President Arroyo had ordered a more aggressive deficit target for this year to show credit rating agencies how determined she was in resolving the fiscal crisis.

The government has shown modest gains from the fiscal reform measures initiated by the President over the last six months, such as sweeping austerity measures that cut down on frivolous expenses and fat bonuses, allowing utility and transport providers to charge market-based rates for power, water and fares, and absorbing P200 billion of the National Power Corp.'s debt (the government will pay P18.8 billion in interest payments for Napocor loans starting this year).

This year, Amatong said the 2-percent hike in tariff on oil imports approved in June last year has been finally put into effect at the start of this year to raise P7 billion in new revenues for the government.

The government is betting that oil prices would continue to drop so that oil companies would not have to adjust upwards their pump prices to take in the additional costs of imports.

Nangyayari ba ito sa 'yo:

☑ Nahihirapan o nangangapos ng paghinga
☑ Naninikip ang dibdib
☑ Ubo
Kinakapos ng pang-tuition

Ang hirap sa paghinga, paninikip ng dibdib at ubo ay sintomas ng isang taong maaaring may Asthma, isang sakit na dama hanggang bulsa.

Buti na lang, may mga gamot ang RiteMED para sa Asthma na de-kalidad, epektibo at abot-kaya. Para di ka kapusin sa ibang pangangailangan.

Kumunsulta sa inyong doktor. Itanong kung aling gamot ng RiteMED ang nararapat sa inyong karamdaman.

May abot-kayang gamot sa mamahaling sakit. RiteMED™ Right medicine, priced right.®

Beautiful Skin - Now Even More Affordable!

BUY ONE - GET ONE FREE!

Start the year right by getting not just one but two steps closer to perfectly beautiful skin. Come to Facial Care Centre and enjoy our BIG New Year Blow-Out:

Buy One – Get One FREE
on Advanced Lasertone Treatment Programme
from January 3-8, 2005 only!

Call the Facial Care Centre professionals now.

Facial care centre

Per DTI-NCR Permit #8122 Series of 2004

CALL 892-SKIN (7546) Where Beautiful Skin Happens
www.facialcarecentre.com.ph
MAKATI ORTIGAS QUEZON CITY SHAW ALABANG BINONDO CONGRESSIONAL PAMPANGA (961-3404) CEBU (233-7631)

Presidents, rock stars lead drive for victims

From page A1

former Democrat president added.

The rock group Linkin Park has set up "Music for Relief" in order to collect money for the American Red Cross.

Members of the group have donated $100,000, hoping that their fans would follow suit.

Actress shells out $1M

"We can really save lives," Brad Delson, a guitarist of the group, said on MTV television. "If one of our fans can donate $10, then that's going to help, and the faster we can do it, the better."

And Actress Sandra Bullock has given $1 million to the American Red Cross to boost its tsunami relief campaign.

The funds from the Hollywood actress will be used to provide relief supplies, financial support and technical assistance, the American Red Cross said in a statement.

The star of "Speed" and "While You Were Sleeping" also gave $1 million after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on New York and Washington.

UK pop stars

In Britain, pop stars Cliff Richard and Boy George teamed up with opera singer Russell Watson to release a tsunami charity single titled "Grief Never Grows Old."

In Hong Kong, some 70 music and movie stars were reported to have got together to record a Chinese-language version of "We Are the World," the single by US pop stars that raised money two decades ago for victims of the famine in Ethiopia—the last tragedy to trigger such global sympathy.

The United Nations warned that tens of thousands more people may have died in the tsunami disaster, on top of the 150,000 already estimated to have been killed.

Early warning device

An ambitious plan to set up an Indian Ocean tsunami warning system is expected to dominate the Jakarta gathering on Thursday of leaders from stricken nations and world donors seeking to prevent a repeat of last week's carnage.

Asian leaders, including Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi—whose nation's $500-million pledge makes it the biggest contributor so far—are to attend the summit, along with US Secretary of State Colin Powell, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and top European Union officials.

Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, the American president's brother, and World Bank President James Wolfensohn also will attend the meeting organized by the 10-country Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

"Indonesia and other neighboring countries plan to set up an early warning to prevent natural disasters, including earthquake and tsunamis," Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono said.

His country suffered more than 90,000 of the estimated 150,000 deaths from the earthquake and killer waves. About 400,000 Indonesians were left homeless.

Arroyo backs warning system

President Macapagal-Arroyo, whose country was spared by the disaster but was still recovering from recent deadly storms, said the summit "is urgent and significant not only to step up the international humanitarian response to the multinational disaster, but to enhance regional disaster preparedness through a consolidated information sharing and early warning system."

The Philippines operates its own early warning system, but Ms Arroyo said it needed to be updated and linked to similar systems in Hawaii, Japan and China.

A current tsunami warning system links 26 Pacific Ocean nations. If it had been expanded to the Indian Ocean coastal countries, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration might have been able to warn them, said the agency's chief, Conrad C. Lautenbacher.

Army of aid workers

Among the 11 nations affected by the earthquake and tsunami, only Indonesia received any warning from NOAA, and then only indirectly through Australia.

Diplomats said the United States and Thailand agreed to cooperate in developing an early warning system, during talks between Powell and Thai Foreign Minister Surakiart Sathirathai. *INQUIRER wires*

'Sir, please help'

ON THE coast of worst-hit Aceh, frantic women juggling babies on their hips and men with desperation painted on their faces, swarmed around a US Navy helicopter fighting over the life-saving food and water parcels.

"Sir, please help. Sir, please help," residents shouted at a foreign reporter. "We need food and medicine," they said over and over again.

The toll will surely rise as rescuers push into areas inaccessible so far due to collapsed bridges, washed out roads and unimaginable devastation.

Many villages gone

Helicopters and elephants were drafted across Asia to surmount the unprecedented logistical obstacles.

Aid workers originally thought the Indonesian northern province, Aceh, took the brunt of the temblor and tsunami, but now believe the low-lying western coastline was hardest hit.

Final toll can't be known

"Many, many of these villages are gone," Jan Egeland, the UN humanitarian chief, said. "There is no trace of them. They had hardly roads before. Now they have nothing."

"The death toll will grow exponentially on the western coast of Sumatra. What will be the final toll we will never know, but we may be talking of tens of thousands of further deaths in this area," Egeland said.

300 mislabeled bodies exhumed

PHUKET, Thailand—Forensic experts have begun exhuming 300 tsunami victims in Thailand after learning their bodies were apparently mislabeled in the rush to bury the dead before they decomposed in the tropical heat, officials said.

Hoping to avoid further confusion, Thai government officials urged friends and relatives seeking information about the missing to stay away from the disaster area and temporary morgues so forensic experts could do their jobs.

More than 200 forensic experts from Thailand and 18 other countries are working frantically at Buddhist temples—serving as makeshift morgues—to identify the dead, many of them foreign tourists.

At one morgue, several hundred bodies lay on the ground, covered by tarps or body bags. Another hundred lay in the sun. A man sprayed a cloud of disinfectant.

Leading Thai forensic expert Porntip Rojanasunand said 300 victims, all Thais and other Asians, were being exhumed.

"When the relatives came to try to claim the victims' bodies, it turned out they had the wrong number," she said.

"The local offices did not put tags on the bodies properly, so we are trying to re-identify them. No one understood how important it is to have the appropriate tagging and labeling. The last two days, we have had the problem of digging up bodies."

Foreigners' bodies are kept in air-conditioned containers, while those of Thais are temporarily buried in nearby cemeteries, waiting for relatives to retrieve them for cremation. Some are being packed in dry ice to slow down decomposition. *AP*

Boyfriend knew from bracelet it was his Joy

From page A1

the one he was wearing," Mrs. Lomadilla added.

Joy, a dance instructress from Pangpang, Sorsogon, who had choreographed for an all-Filipino cultural dance group performing in Thailand, has been cremated and her ashes are to be brought back to Manila on Thursday, the mother said.

Dream turns into nightmare

She said that Joy, a 2003 graduate of Bachelor of Science in Education, major in Physical Education and Music, of the Aquinas University in Legazpi City, left for Thailand on Aug. 22 last year because there was "a better job" awaiting her there.

When the killer tsunami struck, Joy and her Filipino friends were relaxing and having fun at their quarters at the Sofitel Magic Lagoon Resort and Spa on Khao Lak Island, where their group had been performing and staying.

The Lomadilla family later learned that Joy was in the bathroom when the waves swamped their residence.

"Going abroad had been Joy's dream since she was a child, so upon learning that she was leaving for abroad, she felt very happy," Rose said holding back her tears.

The mother described Joy as jolly, adventurous, hardworking and God-loving.

Rose said she never had had to worry about her daughter being away in Thailand because she was told the place where Joy was staying was safe and secure.

"In fact, with all the food and nice clothes being given by the hotel to Joy, she was living like a queen," Rose said.

Spells of boredom

But boredom would overcome her daughter once in a while.

Once, during a phone talk with her other sister, Karen, Joy confided that she was feeling bored because since she arrived in Thailand, all she did was stay in the hotel.

Rose claimed Joy could not visit other places because since she started working as a choreographer in Thailand, she had not received her salary from the Charles Brown Entertainment and Performing Arts agency, her direct employer.

As a result, Rose still had to send her at least P2,000 monthly as pocket money.

She said the Lomadilla family planned to file a case against Joy's employer.

First and last letter

"Had it not been for her concern for co-workers and her love for dancing, Joy would not [have stayed] long in Thailand," Rose said.

She said she talked with her daughter on the phone on Dec. 21—five days before the tsunami struck—and recalled that there was no excitement in her daughter's voice.

"I even wondered when Joy told me that she had sent a letter, which she had never done," Rose said.

It was the first and last letter Joy was to write her mother from Thailand.

"And I have not yet received it," Rose said.

Luckier Filipina

A Filipina compatriot of Joy's, Corazon Villanueva, was luckier.

Villanueva, her Malaysian husband and 6-year-old daughter were attending a church service somewhere else when waves swept away their home in Penang, officials of the Department of Foreign Affairs said yesterday.

"The family and their 6-year-old daughter were unhurt as they were at a church service when the disaster occurred," Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo said at a press briefing.

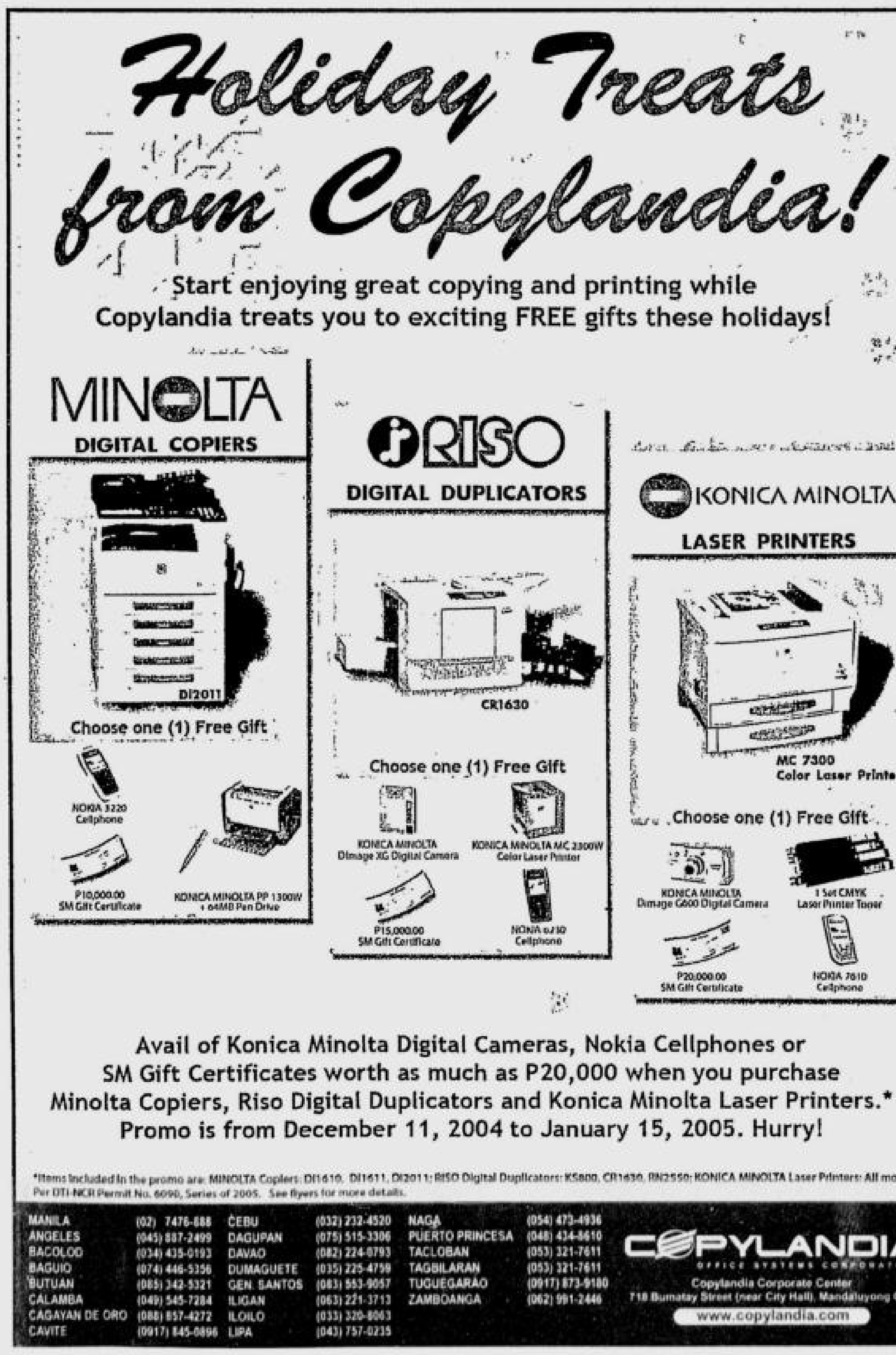
Officials, however, could not give any other information on Villanueva, except to say that she was married to a Malaysian surnamed Samugam.

No one among the estimated 5,000 Filipinos working and staying in Malaysia was hurt or killed or went missing in the aftermath of the tsunami, officials said.

13 still missing

In Thailand, the number of Filipino fatalities remained at five, and the missing, 13. Four others, including Nelson Garma, who had addresses outside the tsunami-hit provinces could not be located, officials said.

Eight new names were added to the list of survivors. They were Rolando V. Aclan Jr., Caitlin Shay Robinson, Fatima Watanasiri, Gabriel Manalo Jr., Joycee Libertad Nilo, Martin Phojola, Mary Ann Geronimo and May Anne Vergara Bird.



Holiday Treats from Copylandia!
MINOLTA
DIGITAL COPIERS
DI2011
Choose one (1) Free Gift
NOKIA 3220 Cellphone
P10,000.00 SM Gift Certificate
KONICA MINOLTA PP 1300W + 64MB Pen Drive
RISO
DIGITAL DUPLICATORS
CR1630
Choose one (1) Free Gift
KONICA MINOLTA Dimage XG Digital Camera
KONICA MINOLTA MC 2300W Color Laser Printer
P15,000.00 SM Gift Certificate
NOKIA 6230 Cellphone
KONICA MINOLTA
LASER PRINTERS
MC 7300 Color Laser Printer
Choose one (1) Free Gift
KONICA MINOLTA Dimage G600 Digital Camera
1 Set CMYK Laser Printer Toner
P20,000.00 SM Gift Certificate
NOKIA 7610 Cellphone

Start enjoying great copying and printing while Copylandia treats you to exciting FREE gifts these holidays!

Avail of Konica Minolta Digital Cameras, Nokia Cellphones or SM Gift Certificates worth as much as P20,000 when you purchase Minolta Copiers, Riso Digital Duplicators and Konica Minolta Laser Printers.* Promo is from December 11, 2004 to January 15, 2005. Hurry!

*Items included in the promo are: MINOLTA Copiers: DI1610, DI1611, DI2011; RISO Digital Duplicators: KS800, CR1630, RN2550; KONICA MINOLTA Laser Printers: All models! Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 6090, Series of 2005. See flyers for more details.

MANILA	(02) 7476-888	CEBU	(032) 232-4520	NAGA	(054) 473-4936
ANGELES	(045) 887-2499	DAGUPAN	(075) 515-3306	PUERTO PRINCESA	(048) 434-8610
BACOLOD	(034) 435-0193	DAVAO	(082) 224-0793	TACLOBAN	(053) 321-7611
BAGUIO	(074) 446-5356	DUMAGUETE	(035) 225-4759	TAGBILARAN	(053) 321-7611
BUTUAN	(085) 342-5321	GEN. SANTOS	(083) 553-9057	TUGUEGARAO	(0917) 873-9180
CALAMBA	(049) 545-7284	ILIGAN	(063) 221-3713	ZAMBOANGA	(062) 991-2446
CAGAYAN DE ORO	(088) 857-4272	ILOILO	(033) 320-8063		
CAVITE	(0917) 845-0896	LIPA	(043) 757-0235		

COPYLANDIA
OFFICE SYSTEMS CORPORATION
Copylandia Corporate Center
718 Bumatay Street (near City Hall), Mandaluyong City
www.copylandia.com

GMA grateful to God for sparing RP

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

A DAY before she was to leave for Jakarta, Indonesia, to attend a leaders meeting on the tsunami crisis, President Macapagal-Arroyo publicly thanked God for sparing the Philippines from the catastrophic waves that swamped a dozen countries in South Asia and Africa.

"I hope also and pray that there will be hope in the country and I ask you to help me pray to the Lord that He will send away, vanish the demons of skepticism stalking [the land]," Ms Arroyo said in a message at the end of a prayer meeting with the Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches in Malacañang.

Ms Arroyo, who has declared Friday as a national day of prayer and mourning for the 150,000 people killed in the tsunamis, said: "This day I want to be a day of thanksgiving because the Lord saved the Philippines ... we were spared from the bigger catastrophe."

"Can you imagine if [the typhoons] happened after the tsunamis?" she added, referring to the recent series of cyclones that ravaged Luzon.

Referring to the Jakarta meeting, Ms Arroyo said she and other leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations would discuss a global response to the catastrophe that killed more than 150,000 people and displaced about a million others in 12 countries.

"If the United Nations and the United States are sending their respective massive missions, they have to put together money and talent. Well, we don't have much money but we have talent," Ms Arroyo said, referring to the teams of forensic experts and medical workers that the Philippines was sending to Indonesia and Sri Lanka.

Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit said Indonesia had asked the Philippines to delay the dispatch of a medical team to Aceh as the tsunami-ravaged province was inaccessible, Agence France-Presse reported.

"The whole infrastructure was devastated," Dayrit said.

DOH: 'Zulican virus' on seafood …

From page A1

of Health (DOH) yesterday said.

The text message goes: "ALERT EVERYBODY: VERY DANGEROUS VIRUS, ZULICAN VIRUS IS SPREADING THROUGH SEAFOODS SO PLS AVOID EATING SEAFOODS & PLS PASS THIS MSG TO ALL YOUR FRIENDS."

In an advisory released by its media office, the DOH said there was no such thing as a "Zulican virus."

"The public is not advised to spread or listen to such text messages especially if they come from unknown sources. In general, seafood in the country is still safe to eat," the DOH said.

Flesh-eating fish

The message started circulating in the country on Monday. Some versions say the virus is due to the flesh that could have been eaten by fishes in tsunami-hit countries in Asia.

A magnitude 9.0 earthquake struck off Indonesia's coast on Dec. 26, causing tsunamis that flooded South Asia's coasts and Africa's east coast. The United Nations expects the death toll to surpass 150,000.

The DOH said the same message spread in India, Malaysia and Singapore before reaching the Philippines. Malaysia and India were hard-hit by the tsunami.

"Authorities such as the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority of Singapore and Malaysia's Health Minister Datuk Dr. Chua Soi Lek have already issued statements declaring the message a hoax," the DOH said.

The World Health Organization country representative to the Philippines, Dr. Jean Marc Olive, has also told the DOH that there are "no threats of contamination from the tsunami," Dr. Luningning Villa relayed in a text message.

DOH texts back

Seeking to counter the alarmist Zulican virus message, the DOH has come up with an advisory, which is now being circulated through text as well.

It goes: "DOH ADVISORY: THE WARNING RE ZULICAN VIRUS IS A HOAX. HAVE FOUND NO RECENT REPORT TO PROVE EXISTENCE OF A VIRUS SPREADING IN SEAFOOD. FROM VARIOUS SOURCES SEARCHED, ZULICAN VIRUS DOES NOT EXIST. PLEASE PASS."

The Hong Kong government, however, urged market vendors yesterday to temporarily stop importing seafood from South Asian countries hit by tsunamis because of contamination concerns.

Authorities feared that the fish may have eaten heavy metals and other pollutants stirred up by the seismic movements in the seabed, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department Assistant Director Thomas Chung said.

Imported fish

The government will step up inspection of imported seafood to make sure it's safe to eat, according to Chung.

Hong Kong imports some fish from the Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia, officials said.

Leave Susan alone–Pimentel

By Christine O. Avendaño and Carlito Pablo

THE POLITICAL opposition seems reluctant to drag the widow of Fernando Poe Jr. into the political arena—for now.

Two opposition senators yesterday urged supporters of the late Poe to respect the privacy of his widow Susan Roces, following reports that a signature campaign had been launched to enlist Roces into politics.

Sen. Edgardo Angara reminded Poe followers that Roces was still mourning the death of her husband who ran and lost in the last presidential elections and who died last month after suffering a massive stroke.

"The decision (to lead the opposition) is a highly personal one and since she is still in the period of bereavement, we should respect her rights and leave her for the moment," Angara said in a phone interview.

With the traditional 40-day mourning period not over yet, the senator said it was premature to make such proposals to Roces.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. reiterated his position that Poe's followers should "let her (Roces) be."

He noted that in previous interviews, Roces said she was not interested in entering politics." I still maintain that Susan's desire be respected," Pimentel said.

House Minority Leader Rep. Francis Escudero (NPC, Sorsogon) said the doors of the political opposition are open to Susan Roces.

"She (Roces) would be a valuable addition to the opposition," he said.

However, Poe's former presidential campaign spokesperson added that "more than anything else, this would have to be a personal decision on her part."

Roces had become a symbol of grace and strength during the wake of her husband that was attended by thousands of adoring fans, political allies and personal friends.

Asked whether Roces could fill her late husband's shoes, Escudero said: "I don't think anyone can."

"Susan should be viewed as a separate and distinct person in addition to being the wife of FPJ," he said.

In a previous interview, former Sen. Francisco "Kit" Tatad said the opposition had yet to choose a paramount leader following the demise of Poe.

Tatad described Roces as the current "inspiration" of the opposition.

Actor Rez Cortez disclosed the other day that followers of the late movie idol would try to collect one million signatures to convince Roces to lead the opposition. This would be similar to the campaign launched by the FPJ for President Movement in 2003, which finally convinced Poe to join the 2004 presidential race.

Probe of Nokor arms sale to MILF sought

By Cynthia D. Balana

SURIGAO del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay Jr. yesterday asked the government to investigate the reported arms deal between North Korea and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, including the source of funding of the secessionist Muslim group.

In an interview, Pichay said the deal was a violation of the ceasefire agreement between the government and the MILF whose peace talks have remained suspended.

He said the information on the arms deal did not come from Tokyo or a Southeast Asian source as reported in newspapers but from a classified report of the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (Nica).

"It's an old Nica report. I saw a copy when I was still chair of the House committee on national defense but it was marked classified. I did not know if they declassified it or someone leaked it to the Japanese newspaper," Pichay told the INQUIRER.

Still, the matter should be investigated, he said, to check the veracity of the information as well as other possible arms transactions of the MILF with other countries.

He said the Department of Foreign Affairs should immediately seek a clarification from the North Korean government and the MILF because this may even affect their peace talks.

"Although the issue may affect the peace negotiations, it should not be a reason to cancel the talks. Peace is too high a priority that it must be pursued by government," Pichay said.

"This might be just the tip of the iceberg. We should not take the issue lightly because an agreement forged by any country with the MILF is tantamount to supporting the MILF in its war against the Philippine government," he stressed.

Pichay said the government should also determine the source of MILF's $2.2 million payment for the purchase of the 10,000 M16 rifles, hand grenades and spare parts supplied by North Korea.

Also, the use of huge sum of money for the arms deal has revived the issue on the possible strong ties maintained by the Southeast terror group Jemaah Islamiyah with the MILF.

Certificates in broadcast, online journalism offered

TWO CERTIFICATE courses and 15 graduate courses on new and emerging fields in journalism will be offered by the Konrad Adenauer Center for Journalism (CFJ) at the Ateneo de Manila University this year.

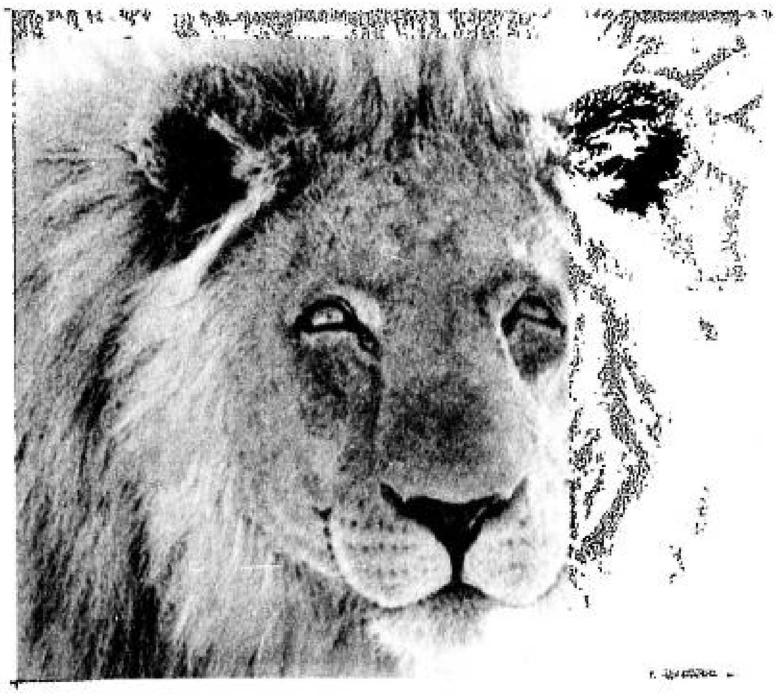
A five-month certificate program in broadcast journalism and another in online journalism will be the new offerings in CFJ's 2005 program. Two online and one on-campus courses comprise the curriculum of the Certificate in Broadcast Journalism. The courses are: Writing for Broadcast (Feb. 7 to March 21), Radio and TV Production (on-campus; May 23-28), and Issues in Broadcast Journalism (July 4-Aug. 15). For the Certificate in Online Journalism, the courses are: Computer-Assisted Reporting (Feb. 7-March 21), Reporting about Information Technology (May 16-June 27), and Online Journalism (Sept. 12-Oct. 24).

The courses are designed primarily for working journalists. Other media professionals are accepted on a case-to-case basis.

PETRON
XCS
BLAZE
Gas up at Petron and earn points.
ADVANTAGE
SM
8880 8880 7899 2015
09 2005
PAMELA R GARCIA
PETRON

Now you can earn points for your SM Advantage Card at Petron. Simply fill up ₱250 worth of fuel (₱350 for credit card purchases) and earn one reward point per visit. So you can shop till you drop without ever running out of gas. Just present your SM Advantage Card at participating Petron service stations.

[illegible]



Meet your Lunchmate.

Don't worry, YOU choose what to eat.

UNIQUELY Singapore

GMA last say on Jalosjos pardon

From page A1

Jalosjos may be connected to the Arroyo administration's campaign to pass certain tax measures.

The group said it was common knowledge that such measures were heavily dependent on Congress, where Jalosjos still had a number of supporters.

"That is expected, for Congress to protect its own members," E-Just chair Leonard de Vera told the INQUIRER.

But according to House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles, there is no move in the House to secure a pardon for Jalosjos.

No such resolution

Nograles said the resolution being talked about was actually filed in the 12th Congress but was not refiled in the 13th Congress, which opened in July last year.

"I just verified from the bills and index division, and no such resolution has been filed or refiled during the 13th Congress," he said. "I was told that a similar resolution seeking a pardon for Jalosjos was filed in the 12th Congress, but it was not taken up."

A number of administration congressmen also said they had not seen a resolution to that effect before Congress went on a Christmas break. A three-day special session called by Ms Arroyo starts today.

But Manila Rep. Ernesto "Banzai" Nieva insisted that he saw a copy of the resolution being passed around on Dec. 17, and that he even signed it.

He said there were about 30 congressmen who had signed it, but when asked to name names, he said he could not remember even one.

He said the author of the resolution was "a congressman from Mindanao."

E-Just identified the author as Basilan Rep. Gerry Salapuddin. But the INQUIRER could not reach him for comment.

Asked if the signature campaign was an initiative of the House, Nieva said he learned that some people had approached the author of the resolution and asked to sign it.

Academic discussion

Pampanga Rep. Jose Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, the President's eldest child, said he was against the grant of pardon to Jalosjos because it was a judicial matter.

"The court should decide. [It is] the authoritative body which can evaluate the Jalosjos case based on legal jurisprudence and not on emotions," he said.

Negros Occidental Rep. Ignacio Arroyo agreed with his nephew Mikey, saying that the court had spoken.

"Personally, I feel that the ends of justice should be upheld," he said.

Tarlac Rep. Agapito "Butz" Aquino said the victim should be asked whether she was willing to forgive Jalosjos before a pardon was discussed.

But Gonzalez said all the discussions about Jalosjos were "academic" because the President had yet to announce her position on the matter.

He said that when he told the INQUIRER on Saturday that Jalosjos could get "conditional pardon with parole conditions," he was just talking about "possibilities."

He added that it would be hard for Jalosjos to get clemency. He cited the statement of the Board of Pardons that the ex-lawmaker was "not yet qualified" for clemency because he had yet to serve the minimum of his two life sentences.

Vulnerable to pressure

De Vera said E-Just was worried that Jalosjos might get the pardon because the President was now "vulnerable to political pressure for her urgent congressional measures."

"She needs congressional support," De Vera said. "But she should never sacrifice justice before the altar of politics."

If indeed the Palace is bent on granting conditional pardon to Jalosjos for humanitarian reasons, the most logical move is to free all other aging and ailing prisoners, he said.

And since Salapuddin had harped on the same reason, De Vera said, his resolution should have covered "all sick convicts, especially the poor inmates who cannot afford medical treatment."

"There are many sick inmates who may also be entitled to either parole or conditional pardon. Why not pardon them too?" De Vera said.

'Many repercussions

With Jalosjos being singled out, Malacañang "can't prevent people from thinking that the move is politically inspired," he said.

Copa secretary general Pastor "Boy" Saycon had earlier warned of "many repercussions" if Ms Arroyo would push through with the "unpopular decision" of pardoning Jalosjos.

De Vera yesterday went into specifics: "If she grants the pardon and people are convinced there is injustice in Malacañang, she should expect her already low popularity rating to further plummet.

"Such a decision would further erode what is already dwindling support from the middle class."

No legal grounds

The Free Legal Assistance Group (FLAG) said there were "no factual or legal grounds" for the President to consider pardoning Jalosjos for humanitarian reasons.

"Without necessarily downgrading the seriousness of his heart condition, FLAG submits that the solution for Mr. Jalosjos' 'lingering heart ailment' is medical treatment—which he is getting and is capable of spending for—and not 'conditional pardon with parole conditions,'" said Theodore Te, FLAG national executive board member and coordinator for Metro Manila.

Te said FLAG found it questionable that the President would consider only Jalosjos to be worthy of "humanitarian" consideration.

"[He] is not the only prisoner suffering from a "lingering heart ailment." This is, by no means, the most serious as well. In this regard, Jalosjos is no different from the countless nameless and faceless inmates in various prison hospitals who are suffering from the same or worse heart ailments," Te said.

The lawyer added: "However, Jalosjos is different from them only because he is rich, he is powerful and he is whining from the comforts of a first-class hospital room in Makati and not from a prison hospital. Different also from other prisoners, Mr. Jalosjos' heart condition is treatable and he has the means and resources to treat the same—a luxury that other inmates do not have."

Affront to women

Emmi de Jesus, secretary general of the militant women's alliance Gabriela, said a conditional pardon for Jalosjos even for humanitarian reasons would be "an affront to the victory of the women's movement."

She recalled that in the 1990s, it was "an arduous struggle" for Gabriela and other women's groups to get justice for Jalosjos' victim, and "to get a powerful man like him convicted."

"Letting Jalosjos out of prison is further injustice to all victims of violence against women," she said, and swore that Gabriela would keep close watch on developments in the matter.

De Jesus also said the ex-congressman should be treated like any other prisoner needing medical attention.

Exchange deal

If Ms Arroyo pardons Jalosjos, "it will again show how morally bankrupt her government's judiciary is," De Jesus said, adding:

"Or perhaps this could be another exchange deal beneficial to both [the President] and Jalosjos' influential family." *With a report from Norman Bordadora*

Now, it's 'Rosebud' vs Mike A over ₱3-M fee

From page A1

royo of blocking her "agent fees" worth at least P3 million, ostensibly to keep her as a "reserve force" against opposition Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson.

She also said an alleged Mike Arroyo publicist had told her that the notorious 14K gang would kill her, and that the President's husband had paid a businesswoman P12 million to file a civil case against Lacson in the United States.

Contacted for comment, Mike Arroyo sent a brief text message: "How can that be? I don't even talk to Ping. I have never even talked to Ping. Those are her own conclusions. You know me better than that. Cases vs Ping are still ongoing."

Mike A denial

But in a phone call to the INQUIRER later, he said:

"Rosebud is hallucinating. Maybe she has a problem with her handlers, but why is she blaming me and dragging me into the picture?"

According to a chronology of events that Ong had distributed to reporters, the President's husband "intervened" and prevented her from getting her fees despite the fact that Deputy Executive Secretary for Finance and Administration Susan "Ching" Vargas had agreed to initially pay her P3 million of the amount that the government supposedly owed her as an anti-narcotics agent.

"The First Gentleman (FG) intervened and directed Secretary Ching Vargas to reverse her decision and release P500,000 instead of the initial commitment of P3 million," Ong said.

To start new life

"In what capacity as a civilian can FG meddle into a government decision ... to reverse a decision already made by a Cabinet secretary? ... Payment of my agent's contract was approved by Secretary Vargas, to be funded from the [Presidential Anti-Crime Commission or PACC], and not any personal account of Mr. Mike Arroyo or a dummy Jose Pidal account," she said.

21 text messages

Ong said she badly needed the money to recover her house, which a judge had ordered her to vacate in January 2004 after she failed to pay the interest on a housing loan.

That loan has since ballooned from P3.8 million in 1998 to P9.7 million.

"Madame President, if you deem that all my efforts are futile, may I plead with you, rather than accept help from others, to enable us financially for me and my entire family to leave the country and start a new life," Ong said.

P6M in collectibles

Ong said the P3 million was part of the P6-million collectibles that were to be paid her based on her contract with the Philippine National Police in 1998 and 1999.

By Ong's account, Vargas agreed on Oct. 26 to pay her P3 million.

She said PNP Director General Edgar Aglipay as well as former PNP chiefs Leandro Mendoza, Roberto Lastimoso and Hermogenes Ebdane had agreed that her fees would be taken from the PACC, which supposedly still had funds from the dissolved Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force.

Ong said she had saved 21 text messages from Vargas on her mobile phone to prove that it was Mike Arroyo who had blocked the payment of her fees.

"[He] has portrayed himself to be a 'Charity Man of the Poor' and 'hands off' in governance. But with the 21 saved text messages of Secretary Vargas, FG is the decision-maker," she said of Mike Arroyo.

Ong cited a purported text message from Vargas sent on Oct. 27 through cell phone number 0918-9029473 saying: "Sori, der has bin a mix up. Fg txtd me dat he approved only p500k. Wl clarify wd hm tmrw." (Sorry, there has been a mix-up. FG texted me that he approved only P500,000. Will clarify with him tomorrow.)

Twelve minutes later, Ong said, Vargas again sent a text message saying Mike Arroyo had confirmed through an earlier text message that Ong would get only P500,000. Vargas also said she would "follow" what she had been instructed to do.

At 1:18 p.m. the next day, Vargas supposedly sent another text message saying that "for the meantime," Ong should accept the P500,000.

"He is thinking of giving you a job and luckily, [former military intelligence chief] General [Victor] Corpus was outside his office when we exited. Try to contact Corpus, he knows where to place you," the message supposedly said.

Ong said she sent Mike Arroyo a text message nine minutes later, "pleading with him," but that the only reply she received was: "That's why you got [P500,000] already."

'Racing against time'

Ong asked Ms Arroyo to help her and her family leave for abroad in the event that she will not receive her supposed collectibles.

"Madame President, I will not be able to recover my house if payment comes in trickles because the money goes to the interest charges and I am racing against time. The job being offered by the First Gentleman will provide the basic needs for my children and medicines for my cancer-stricken mother. I am grateful for the job but it will not save my house," she said.

She also said she had previously sought the President's help when they met on Mike Arroyo's birthday on June 26.

"*Di pa ba tapos yan* (Isn't that over yet)?" she quoted Ms Arroyo as telling her.

She said Ms Arroyo then called Ebdane through a mobile phone and said that "regarding her agent's contract, please help and pay her. She [has a] financial problem."

She said that she met with Ebdane the next day and that he promised to pay her. But since that meeting, she said, government officials had been giving her the runaround.

Ong said Mike Arroyo's supposed public relations officer, a certain Boyet Antonio, had told her that the notorious 14K gang was after her.

SPECIAL REPORT

DPWH: Road upkeep is top priority

TRAFFIC congestion, air pollution, and vehicular accidents — all related to the quality of road construction and maintenance.

(Part 1 of a 2 part series)

Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Secretary Florante Soriquez heads the government's premier infrastructure agency taking care of the national road system.

"In a heavy traffic, bad road condition is a contributory factor because it slows down movement of vehicles, leading to wear and tear and high maintenance costs for motorists," Soriquez said. It can also cause traffic accidents, while congestion of vehicles, due to uneven roads, triggers more carbon monoxide emissions that pollute the environment.

"Bad roads are detrimental to the economy and public safety," the public works secretary said.

Understanding the enormity of this responsibility, the DPWH under Soriquez has made road maintenance a high priority. He remembers President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo telling him "good roads make good economics."

Doing more with less

Based on World Bank estimates, the country needs an annual budget of about P13.5 billion to maintain existing roads and bridges. But because of the government's financial constraints, the DPWH is allocated only P4 billion, barely enough to maintain 30,000 kms of national roads.

DPWH Bureau of Maintenance Director Luis Mamitag said despite the meager amount, the agency was able to stretch its budget for the upkeep of the roads nationwide.

"Generally, national roads are currently in fair to good condition due to the extra efforts being undertaken by DPWH Regional and District Engineering Offices. We are basically compensating for the huge budget deficit by doubling our efforts," he said.

"Since roads and bridges are government investments built with taxpayers money, the agency sees to it that their maintenance is being pursued without let-up," Soriquez said.

Though the DPWH benefits from Motor Vehicle Road User's Charge fees, it could not utilize it fully to help the government hurdle its budget deficit.

Multiple approaches

To overcome lack of equipment, DPWH has resorted to applying innovative and cost-saving road maintenance schemes such as the Maintenance by Contract (MBC) involving private contractors.

This MBC approach helped the DPWH maximize the use of its limited financial and logistical resources. Contractors account for 10,563 kms of 30,000 kms of national roads being maintained. The rest falls under the Maintenance By Administration (MBA) scheme of DPWH using, in 2004, the P39,000 per Equivalent Maintenance per Kilometer (EMK) formula.

Routine maintenance works eat up the bulk of DPWH maintenance budget. These involve patching potholes, sealing cracks on the roadways, clearing drainages, reshaping shoulders and controlling vegetations along roadsides. Focus is on major arterial roads since these connect barangays, cities, and municipalities.

Soriquez said maintenance is routine to make sure that roads meet their design life, which starts once the completed road construction project is turned over to the government.

"The DPWH has also embarked on a program to prolong the life of roads, which is called preventive maintenance," he said. It calls for asphalt overlay, concrete reblocking and other related works to prevent roadway deterioration and vehicular accidents.

The agency likewise applies so-called "long-term intervals" through periodic maintenance — resurfacing of unpaved roads, redecking timber bridge decks and repainting steel bridge members. These are in addition to installation of new pipe culverts, construction of concrete-lined canals and undertaking slope protection works.

DPWH confronts, overcomes adversities

The biggest adversary facing the DPWH when it comes to maintaining national roads is nature. Calamities such as typhoons, heavy floodings and earthquakes could easily cut short the designed life of roads and bridges.

In times of calamity, the agency taps its annual contingency fund called the Quick Response Fund amounting to P65 million for CY 2004 to reckon with an average 22 typhoons yearly, not to mention other calamities.

Around P800 million to P1 billion is needed annually to repair damaged roads caused by calamities. Though the budget falls short of that requirement, the DPWH under Soriquez has nonetheless managed to cope with it through an ingenious management style and approach.

"Secretary Soriquez pushes us to maximize the use of available but limited funds to address immediate concerns in times of calamities. Fortunately, we get financial aid from local government leaders," Mamitag said.

For Soriquez, public infrastructure quality can never be compromised. Neither scarcity of funds nor natural disasters can keep him from fulfilling his duty and the DPWH mandate.

"We have made significant success in keeping our roads in shape in the last three years" Soriquez pointed out.

The figures speak for themselves. From 2001 to 2003, the DPWH paved 2,542 kms of 6,911 kms of national roads, up from 58.3 percent in 2000 to 70.5 percent in 2003. The substantial increase happened during Soriquez's first year as public works secretary.

"We are continuing to prepare plans and explore other means to improve road maintenance. The bad roads in major areas in the country pose a serious problem. The agency is doing all it can to solve this," Soriquez said.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Investor says giant bank gave her the runaround

From page A1

gall to propose that I appoint them custodian of my funds," she said.

Poblador said the bank never furnished her with her statements of account until she demanded that she be given them in 2003.

Answering machine only

On Jan. 13, 2003, she was able to withdraw $20,000 from her checking and time deposit accounts, a fraction of the original amount that she had entrusted to Citibank.

The bank asked that it be allowed to sign a waiver absolving it of any remaining obligations. She refused.

"As for the rest of my money, I was not able to recover the same despite my persistent follow-ups and personal demands," she said.

Moreover, she said she was given the runaround. She also found that "getting in touch with anyone at Citibank was always a frustrating experience."

"Whenever I would call [Santos'] office it was always an answering machine that answered and even the backup person was never around," Poblador said.

Violations

Poblador's lawyers said that aside from the crime of estafa under the Revised Penal Code, Citibank was liable for violations of the General Banking Act:

- Sec. 55 (Prohibited Transactions). No director, officer, employee or agent of the bank shall make false entries in any bank report or statement or participate in any fraudulent transaction, thereby affecting the financial interest of, or causing damage to the bank or any person.
- Sec. 80 (Conduct of Trust Business). A trust entity shall administer the funds or property under its custody with the diligence that a prudent man would exercise in the conduct of an enterprise of a like character and with similar aims.
- Sec. 50 (Conducting Business in an Unsafe or Unsound Manner). The act of omission has resulted or may result in material loss or damage or abnormal risk of danger to the institution's depositors, creditors, investors, stockholders or to the BSP or to the public in general.

Unauthorized transactions

Poblador challenged Citibank to provide her with a copy of her investor-risk profile and suitability questionnaire to show that the account officer had clearly understood her needs.

She also asked the bank to provide proof of timely receipts of all documents she had signed within the 10-day period of the date of execution as specified in the bank's own internal rules.

Poblador accused Citibank of making her sign blank documents, which were later used to justify unauthorized transactions. She said she later discovered that the BSP had an existing regulation prohibiting trustees from requiring clients to sign documents in blank.

Her theory is that because Citibank was an underwriter of the Benpres bond issuance, it was in the bank's interest to aggressively sell the bonds.

True enough, some of the underwriters of the Benpres bonds are known to have sold part of their bond holdings to retail clients in order to diversify their risks. Many of the clients had gone to Benpres, wondering why its debt papers had been transferred to their names. Some were upset that their funds were used to buy the bonds, but Benpres officials told them that it was a matter between them and their banks.

Conflict of interest

Poblador said that when clients wanted to sell out, Citibank chose to protect its own interest, telling seller-clients that there were no buyers when Benpres started to experience financial problems.

This was clearly a conflict of interest, a situation prejudicial to the bank's clients, she pointed out.

She also pointed out that Santos was not authorized to enter into a trust agreement with her.

"In my subsequent talk with her boss, Ailene Litonjua [the head of the Citigold wealth management unit in Makati], she intimated to me that Emily Santos had no authority to undertake a trust agreement with Citigold clients," Poblador said.

Client admits fault

Poblador acknowledged that what happened may have been partly her fault because she had not been vigilant in her dealings with Citibank, allowing four years to pass before raising the red flag.

"Aside from the fact that [bank] statements came late and irregularly, I felt at that time that there was no reason for me to complain because the monthly bank statements always reflected the full value of [the] Benpres bonds," she said.

"In my previous Citibank New York transactions, the funds I invested in always reflected their actual market value," she added.

Offer of settlement

Poblador said Citibank had offered her a settlement of P1 million, which she rejected as "grossly insufficient."

Asked to comment on the case, Citibank said: "It has always been our policy not to discuss customer matters publicly."

"Rest assured, we have responded to her complaint. We have likewise communicated to the BSP our response to her complaint," Citibank public relations officer Jeanette Ng-Lim said in an e-mail sent to the INQUIRER on Oct. 27.

Lessons

The case provides a significant lesson on and insight into banking relationships and the responsibilities of both client and trustee-bank.

It is also another litmus test for the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, which is swamped with complaints, but has never publicly admonished any erring bank for fear of causing the public to lose confidence in the banking system. *(Tomorrow: Citibank counsel's reply)*

Erap: Gloria close to Jimenez, not me

From page A1

2003 after he pleaded guilty to election conspiracy and tax evasion charges in connection with his illegal contributions to President Bill Clinton and other Democrats.

Former Bulacan Rep. Willie Villarama, a friend of Jimenez's, said the former Manila congressman was serving time at a facility in Pennsylvania, and was due to be released in October. "It's impossible for him to go to Hong Kong (to meet with Estrada)," Villarama said.

Private funds

Sought for comment, the First Gentleman responded by text saying: "Neither the President nor I talked with Mark Jimenez. Erap (Estrada), as usual, is wrong. We don't have any motive. We are not even trustees of Lualhati Foundation."

"Besides, contributions to Lualhati are private (funds), unlike (Estrada) who funneled government funds into his foundation when he was President. Also, for your information, I wasn't in Hong Kong. Neither was the President. Erap, as you know, was there. We don't even know if Mr. Jimenez was there," Mr. Arroyo said.

He later called the INQUIRER to say that Estrada had also allegedly caused the transfer of P20 million from the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) to his Erap Para Sa Mahirap foundation, of which Sen. Loi Ejercito, Mr. Estrada's wife, is a trustee.

The foundation's address is No. 1 Polk Street, San Juan (Estrada's residence), according to the First Gentleman. "That's like transferring money from one pocket to another," he told the INQUIRER.

SPECIAL prayers for President Arroyo are said by evangelical leaders Efraim Tendero (left), national director of the Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches (PCEC) and Bishop Fred Magbanua, PCEC vice chair at the Palace on Tuesday. REM ZAMORA

Estrada is facing plunder and perjury charges, which includes allegations that he took P200 million from the tobacco excise tax and placed it in his Erap Muslim Youth Foundation.

Namedropper

Estrada was specially peeved over the fact that the INQUIRER described Jimenez as one of his economic advisers and a member of the "midnight Cabinet" that partied and gambled almost nightly during Estrada's term.

"I kicked him out and barred him from the Palace less than a year after making him my adviser. I heard he was getting into questionable transactions using my name," he said.

Estrada said one of those allegedly victimized by Jimenez was the family of his son-in-law Beaver Lopez, who is married to Estrada's daughter Jacqueline Ejercito. "He was dropping my name to enter into shady transactions," he said of Jimenez.

Estrada said events would later prove that Jimenez was closer to the Arroyos, having given P5 million to the Lualhati Foundation through Villarama, who was then Ms Arroyo's chief of staff when she was the Vice President.

"*Mas barkada siya ng mga Arroyo kaysa sa akin* (He's more chummy with the Arroyos than me)," he said.

$2-million commission

He recalled that Jimenez also figured in a multimillion-peso failed telecommunications deal involving President Arroyo's secretary Bing Rodrigo and the electric power deal in which Jimenez allegedly gave then Justice Secretary Hernando Perez $2 million in commission.

Estrada wondered why he was again targeted for attacks when he was recuperating from the operation in Hong Kong.

"I have no reason to see Jimenez. I have had no deals with him. The Arroyos would have more reason to want to see him," he said, adding that Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson had once tried to get Jimenez to spill the beans on the Arroyo administration, but failed to do so.

"It was Villarama who stopped Jimenez from giving us documents damaging to the Arroyos," Estrada said.

Greenbelt reaps ...

From page A1

association of shopping centers, gave the plum award to ALI for shopping center design and construction.

ALI received the International Design and Development Award under the category "Innovative Design and Construction of a New Project" in ICSC ceremonies held Dec. 10 in Texas. It bested 39 shopping centers from 14 countries which had made it to the semi-finals.

Established in 1977, the ICSC's International Design and Development Awards Program recognizes outstanding shopping center projects as well as the people behind them. These include owners, development managers, associates, architects and designers "who are the very best at what they do, who design and develop projects that can truly be held as examples of what can be accomplished with a lot of hard work and creativity."

Dedicated to customers

Miriam Katigbak, senior vice president and head of Ayala Land Commercial Centers Group, who accepted the trophy for the firm, said: "This award is a testament to the meticulous work and careful planning that went into redeveloping Greenbelt. We humbly offer this recognition to our loyal customers whose evolving and discriminating tastes make innovation and creativity possible."

Katigbak was joined at the awards ceremony in Texas by ALI vice presidents Rowena Tomeldan and Winnie Nazareth.

In 2003, Greenbelt was the only Asian awardee of the Urban Land Institute (ULI) Award of Excellence, known internationally as the "Oscars" of real estate development, for embodying the ULI principle of responsible leadership in the use of land to enhance the total environment.

Oasis of nature, business

The institute cited the Greenbelt 3 development for providing a "welcome oasis for nature and culture while attracting and sustaining business."

Greenbelt 3 is one of the four main enclaves of the Greenbelt mall, consisting of Greenbelt 1 to 4, which ALI had developed into a retail, entertainment and lifestyle center in the middle of the central business and financial district. It features gardens, ponds, trees and open spaces, made possible by relocating parking spaces underground.

A safe and comfortable elevated walkway system connects Greenbelt to other retail buildings and makes it accessible by foot from Ayala Avenue and major CBD centers. Also integral to the Greenbelt 4 design is the Ayala Museum which provides a haven for culture and the arts.

3,333 Good Reasons to buy
The No.1 VIDEOKE MICROPHONE

2005 EDITION

WOW! MAGIC SING PREMIUM
Videoke Anytime, Anywhere!

2005 EDITION *With New Features* Real Time Scoring • Amateur, Pro or Star Singer Scoring Levels • Voice Change Style (Male or Female) • Adjustable Lyric Display • First Lyric Line Display-on Browse *plus*
793 Built-in licensed songs *plus*
55 WOWPHILIPPINES picture backgrounds *plus*
1 Full Color Guide to the 55 WOWPHILIPPINES pictures *plus*
1 BIYAHE Tayo! Bonus Song *plus*
1 FREE! WOW! Magic Sing Premium Neckphone *plus*
1 FREE! Mic Stand *plus*
1 User-friendly Songlist Manual *plus*
1 Leatherette Bag *plus*
1 Five meter cable *plus*
1 Autovolt Electronic Adaptor *plus*
472 Dealers nationwide
3,333

BIYAHE Tayo! THE BONAMINE TRAVEL ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN
Biyahe Tayo! is a project of Bonamine/Pfizer/DOT/PCVC and is fully supported by WOW! Magic Sing Premium

Duet Microphone with
• FREE! BIYAHE Tayo! VCD
• Receiver

Tagalog 3, 4 & 5 Song chips with
• FREE! BIYAHE Tayo! VCD
• Licensed Songs
• User-friendly Songlist & Manual

FREE!
Neckphone
Mic Stand
Full color guide to the 55 WOWPHILIPPINES picture backgrounds
BIYAHE Tayo! Bonus song
BIYAHE Tayo! VCD*
*For every purchase of Duet Mic & Tagalog Song chips

AVAILABLE NATIONWIDE AT:
odyssey MUSIC & VIDEO • Automatic CENTRE • AstroVision • ABENSON • WESTERN • MUSIC VIDEO • SOCO Home & Office Center • ASTROPLUS • Avid BEST BRANDS! • TIONGSAN HARRISON • SOLID ELECTRONICS • PACIFIC ELECTRONICS • SANSONIC MARKETING • OHM'S TRADER • Hirosé ELECTRONICS • W & M Marketing • SANTECH • ASSURANCE Merchandising • SIGHTS & SOUNDS Audio Video • GOLDEN SOUND • The Listening Room • SPECTRA AUDIO VIDEO CENTER • Nintendo • People's MARKETING • Willy and Sons Corporation • ABEN Marketing • BHF • SOLAR SALES CENTER • CSI CITY SUPERMARKET INCORPORATED • Consumers Appliance Traders, Inc. • EVER APPLIANCE CENTER, INC. • ECHO • ASIAN HOME APPLIANCE CENTER • ECO-TECH • Cebu Appliance Center • Gaisano • Lopue's • RCS MARKETING • ONE-CLUB MARKETING INC. • QUALITY APPLIANCE PLAZA INC • SPECIAL APPLIANCE PLAZA INC • RAINBOW APPLIANCE PLAZA INC • CENTRAL QUALITY APPLIANCE PLAZA INC • Victoria • BCS • GOLDEN BELL • BETTER LIVING

Metro Manila Dealers: Armstrong Gonzalo Puyat Raon, Manila • Knight Audio Room Raon Shopping Center, Manila • Fair N' Square Escolta St Binondo, Manila, Nueva St Binondo, Manila • Ample • Viewplus Appliance • Richland Electronics • Filgifts Filipino Merchant Bldg. Legaspi Village, Makati City • Earl Toy World • Shop Manila • VMZ Business Center • Belden Mktng • Jems Appliances • Buy Smart • Prosound • Listening Style • Victronics Computers, Inc. • Sound Quest Electronic Center • Bethel Marketing • Belcap • Yamaha School of Music • Wilsonic Marketing • A Plus A • Welcome Home Appliance Corp

Provincial Dealers: Luzon TSB Bazaar Baguio City • Audio Mix Calansayan, San Jose Batangas • Quanzon Merchandising Corp. • Joy's Radio Center & Record Bar • Ocampos Angeles • Ocampos Mega Store Metro Mall, Poblacion, Balanga Bataan, Arthur St. WDB Olongapo City, Dinalupihan Public Market, Dinalupihan, Bataan
Visayas & Mindanao Theason's Marketing Decuno Bldg. cor Larma & Panganiban Drive, Naga City • GC Appliance Corp • Siritz Consumer Electronics Cebu City • R A Uy Appliance • Fiesta Appliance Center • J&R Nueva St. Cebu City

Exclusively Distributed by In-n-Jiffy [illegible] & G2K Corporation [illegible]
Made in Korea by ET ENTERTECH Co. Ltd

Tsunami tragedy also brings out the worst in human nature

HONG KONG—From hoax tsunami warnings to fake rescue workers looting bodies and survivors being sexually and financially exploited—Asia's tragedy has brought out not only the best but the worst in human nature.

While the world has mounted an unprecedented response to help victims of the devastating waves that wiped out entire communities, criminal elements, opportunists and even survivors are taking advantage of the disaster.

In Sri Lanka, reports have emerged that some survivors driven from their homes may have been molested or even gang-raped at refugee shelters.

"We have received reports of incidents of rape, gang rape, molestation and physical abuse of women and girls in the course of unsupervised rescue operations and while resident in temporary shelters," the rights group, Women and Media Collective, said in a statement.

It was unable to provide specific details but urged Sri Lankan authorities to step up protection for those who lived through the catastrophe, particularly the thousands of orphaned children.

With so many children losing their parents, aid groups and government officials are also concerned that they are being split among relatives more eager to get money promised for survivors than to care for them.

One Unicef official in India said a man, who claimed to be an uncle of an orphaned boy, turned out to be a fraud after the child refused to go with him.

"Obviously, these orphans are precious to their relatives and even others not related, for the money relief offered by the government," said S. Vidyaakar, founder-director of Madras-based 'Udhavum Karangal' (Helping Hands), a voluntary institution.

Carol Bellamy, executive director of the UN Children's Fund, told a media conference in Colombo part of the focus of her organization's work in the country was to "ensure children are protected from exploitation."

"In tumult like this, when families are broken apart, when incomes are lost, when dignity and hope are in short supply, children are more vulnerable to abuses," Bellamy said.

While Thailand has rallied in response to the devastation wrought on its western shores by the walls of water on Dec. 26, a report said a 12-year-old Swedish boy injured in the chaos may have been kidnapped from a hospital.

Although not officially confirmed, the Times of London said Swedish and Thai police were cooperating to find the boy, Kristian Walker.

The report came a day after the Swedish branch of non-governmental organization Save the Children, Raedda Barnen, warned that children who ended up alone after the disaster were potential targets for pedophiles.

"The experience from other catastrophes is that children are particularly vulnerable," Raedda Barnen, managing director Charlotte Petri Gornitzka, told a news conference.

Reports of looting and even body snatching have surfaced across the countries worst affected.

In Sri Lanka, reports said bodies of victims had been stolen from hospitals and "sold" to distraught relatives while fingers and ears of corpses had been chopped off to steal jewelry.

Meanwhile, some rescue workers—or people posing as them—in Thailand ransacked wrecked shops or stole from bodies.

Police on the resort island of Phuket received complaints that a man posing as a policeman pried open a jewelry store safe and stole items worth three million baht ($76,920), The Nation newspaper said.

On the devastated resort island of Phi Phi a 200-strong team of rescue workers from a foundation left abruptly after a police search found 20 of them had items stolen from bodies, the paper said. *AFP*

Baghdad governor assassinated; another suicide bomber kills 11

BAGHDAD—Gunmen killed Baghdad's governor, Ali al-Haidari, and six of his bodyguards Tuesday, in Iraq's highest-profile assassination for eight months and a suicide bomber killed 11 people on Tuesday in an escalating campaign to wreck the Jan. 30 election.

Al-Haidari's three-vehicle convoy was passing through Baghdad's northern neighborhood of Hurriyah when gunmen opened fire, said the chief of his security detail, who asked only to be identified as Major Mazen.

"The governor was in his armored BMW and we were in two other cars," said Major Mazen, reached on al-Haidari's cell phone. "Our convoy was moving in Hurriyah and they came from different directions and opened fire at us."

The shooting of al-Haidri showed insurgents' power to strike at the heart of the governing class, raising fresh doubts as to whether security forces can protect politicians and voters as the ballot draws near.

The assassination took place hours after a suicide bomber rammed a fuel truck into a checkpoint near Baghdad's Green Zone, a sprawling compound housing the Iraqi government and the US and British embassies. The vehicle went up in a giant fireball that rocked the capital.

The bombing killed eight police commandos and three civilians and wounded 58 people, bringing fresh scenes of bloodshed to Baghdad's streets a day after 17 security men died in a string of ambushes and explosions across the country.

Iraq's insurgents have repeatedly targeted government officials around the country, saying they are allies of the US-led coalition. Al-Haidari was the highest-ranking official killed since the former president of the now defunct Governing Council, Abdel-Zahraa Othman, better known as Izzadine Saleem, was assassinated in May.

Al-Haidari was the target of another assassination attempt last year that killed two of his bodyguards.

In Phuket, Thailand, US Secretary of State Colin Powell expressed sorrow at Tuesday's assassination of al-Haidari but said Iraq's elections will go ahead this month as scheduled.

"I was very saddened to hear of the assassination of the mayor of Baghdad," he told reporters in Thailand, the first stop on an Asian tour to assess aid efforts after the deadly tsunamis.

The attackers "want to go back to the past. They want to go back to the tyranny of the Saddam Hussein regime and that's not going to happen," Powell said.

"The Iraqi people don't want it to happen. The interim government is determined to fight this insurgency and you can be sure the coalition will do everything it can to fight the insurgency so that the Iraqi people can have a successful election at the end of the month," Powell said.

The attacks were the latest in a drive by Sunni insurgents trying to force out US-led forces, cripple the American-backed interim government and scare voters away from the polls. Iraqi leaders say guerrillas also want to provoke sectarian civil war.

Al-Haidri was the most senior official assassinated in the city since the head of the Governing Council was killed last May.

Tuesday's powerful explosion hit a roadblock near the police commando headquarters on the outskirts of the Green Zone, police and witnesses said. *Reuters, AP, AFP*

Amid the chaos and misery emerge remarkable tales of survival

HONG KONG—A woman rescued after five days adrift at sea, children miraculously emerging from the wreckage intact, and some ingenious tales of escape: Asia's tsunami disaster has spawned remarkable stories of survival.

Amid the chaos and misery wrought by the tumultuous waves of water that shattered the lives of millions of people last week, heart-wrenching cases continue to surface from the devastation.

But they are few and far between, with nearly 150,000 dead and countless more missing.

In one rare success story that stunned rescue workers, Anthony Praveen, 8, opened his eyes and sat up as grave differs were about to bury him in the southern Indian town of Velankanni.

He was in a stupor among a pile of corpses taken from a morgue to be buried at a beach grave and only managed to communicate in the nick of time, Hong Kong's South China Morning Post reported from the town.

Elsewhere, a Malaysian fishing boat rescued an Acehnese woman who had been drifting in the Indian Ocean for five days after being washed away by the force of waves.

Housewife Malawati, 23, was found floating alive Friday not far from the shores of Indonesia's Aceh, the area hardest hit by the Dec. 26 disaster, a Malaysian International Tuna Port official told Bernama news agency.

The woman, sun-burnt and suffering fish bites, was clinging to an uprooted palm trunk which had clusters of fruit on it, helping her get through the ordeal.

"From initial information received from the crew, the woman, with leg injuries, is safe," the official said.

Another amazing tale of survival involved 6-year-old Zoe Shiu, who escaped the tragedy that ravaged Thailand's western coast by clinging to a large floating sofa cushion.

The little girl, who has US and Thai passports, was playing in the swimming pool of the Sofitel Magic Lagoon resort in Khao Lak north of Phuket when the onrushing water swept the Andaman coast.

She clung on to the cushion which eventually led her to an overturned boat that a hotel maid was also reaching for. The two managed to turn over the boat and got in safely.

The plucky girl is the only one in her family known to have survived and has been flown to Singapore to recover with an aunt, Singapore news reports said.

Tens of thousands of children were killed in the horror of that day, too small and too weak to run or hold onto trees or debris, which makes new-born S. Tulasi extremely lucky to have survived.

The 20-day-old baby was sleeping on a mattress which floated her to safety after Malaysia's Penang island was hit by walls of water, local media reported. *AFP*

HERE'S THE REST OF YOUR FUR COAT
PETA.org
GAP

FUR PROTEST
Japanese and American members of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, (from left) Lisa Fraqnzetta from San Francisco, California; Christina Cho from Los Angeles, California; Chihiro Okada of Japan; and Naoko Takata of Japan, hold raw carcasses of foxes during an antifur demonstration at the Omotesando shopping district in central Tokyo. Peta will hold a protest in Seoul on Jan. 7 as fur sales have expanded to Japan, China and South Korea recently. AFP

Boy may have started disco fire, says report

BUENOS AIRES—A small boy may have fired the flare that set off the Argentina nightclub inferno for which the toll rose to 183 on Monday after an 11-year-old girl died.

Amidst widespread anger over safety standards, a sound engineer at the disco in Buenos Aires told prosecutors he saw a boy, on the shoulders of his father, fire a flare during the rock concert on Thursday night, Clarin newspaper reported.

Senior prosecutor Jose Manuel Sansone believes this is the most likely cause of the disaster, a legal source told the newspaper.

The ceiling of the Republica Cromagnon caught fire and the 2,000 people at the concert by the rock group Los Callejeros were unable to escape as safety exits were locked with chains.

On top of the mounting death toll, about 882 people were injured, 117 of them in serious condition. The girl who died on Monday was among three people in a critical state in hospital.

Many parents took their children to the concert, where a special creche had been set up. There were many children among the dead, including a 10-month-old baby boy.

More funerals for the victims were held on Monday. About 90 of the dead were buried on Sunday in two Buenos Aires cemeteries amid rising anger over action taken by the city government to control nightclub safety.

"Death is always painful, but when it is young people and there are so many, it hits us even more," said Fr. Jose Maria Balina at a funeral for one young victim.

Officials said the club had a permit for just over 1,000 patrons, but the night of the fire more than 2,000 people were packed inside.

Omar Chaban, one of the owners of the nightclub, has been in detention in a secret place since the fire and was to be officially questioned by a prosecutor on Monday and Tuesday. Some of his partners are on the run. *AFP*

Hemorrhoids triggered British 18-year quest for perfect toilet paper

LONDON—Britain's civil service embarked on an 18-year quest for the perfect toilet paper after a doctor voiced concern about a diplomat's hemorrhoids, according to a government file made public Tuesday.

John Hunt, a London physician, wrote to the Treasury's medical adviser in 1963 after he examined Sir John Pilcher, who was Britain's ambassador to Austria and, later, Japan, the Daily Telegraph reported.

"A patient of mine... thinks that the government lavatory paper is out of date and extremely bad for his complaint (hemorrhoids) and he has asked me if there is any chance of it being changed to a softer type," Hunt wrote.

It soon emerged that Her Majesty's Stationery Office, in charge of buying all government toilet paper, preferred the rough stuff because it cost the taxpayer less.

A lively correspondence followed, involving such interested parties as combative staff unions, the august School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (which thought hard, shiny paper was better) and the Treasury typing pool.

In the 1970s, "creped paper" gained favor as the price factor evaporated. Then in 1980, a team of epidemiologists weighed in with a report that argued that soft paper was more hygienic.

The following year, soft paper made its debut in government toilets, bringing relief to countless bureaucratic bottoms.

The hefty dossier was among 50,000 files brought to light Tuesday by the National Archives in Kew, west London under a Freedom of Information Act that came into effect on New Year's Day. *AFP*

IWATA Paper Shredder NEW MODELS
Can shred CD's, Credit Cards & Staple Wire
15's capacity CROSS-CUT S-1500 P8,600
7's capacity CROSS-CUT S-658 P7,800
15's capacity (A4/80gsm) 7's capacity
41x32x62cm (Machine Size) 34x24x56cm
4x38mm (Shred Size) 2x15mm
STL FEATURES. Auto On/Off, Paper Jam Reverse Key, Thermal Overload Protection, Infra-Red Sensor for Auto On/Off, Auto Shut-Off on Bin Removal, Safety Window
SOLE AGENT COLENT ENTERPRISE CO.

The Colors of Flying

PROMO PACKAGES

1 N HONGKONG + 1 N SHENZHEN (3D/2N)	$ 98
1 N HONGKONG + 1 N SHENZHEN (3D/2N)	$ 108
HONGKONG (3D/2N)	$ 173
MACAU (3D/2N)	$ 228
HONGKONG + SHENZHEN + MACAU (4D/3N)-FULLBOARD	$ 243
BANGKOK (3D/2N)	$ 189
SINGAPORE (3D/2N)	$ 259
SINGAPORE + MALAYSIA + INDONESIA (4D/3N)	$ 348
SINGAPORE + KUALA LUMPUR (6D/5N)	$ 380
HO CHI MINH (3D/2N)	$ 290
SAIGON (3D/2N)	$ 295
GUAM (3D/2N)	$ 330
SHANGHAI + SHENZHEN + HONGKONG (5D/4N)	$ 328
BEIJING + SHENZHEN + HONGKONG (6D/5N)	$ 398
SEOUL (3D/2N)	$ 445
USA + CANADA EAST COAST HIGHLIGHTS (6D/5N)	$ 520
AFFORDABLE EUROPE (8D/7N)	$ 1,950
BUDGET FARES	
HONGKONG (PAL)	$ 166
SINGAPORE	$ 205
LOS ANGELES / SAN FRANCISCO	$ 738
NEWARK	$ 838
VANCOUVER	$ 738
SYDNEY / MELBOURNE / BRISBANE	$ 610
LONDON / ROME / PARIS	$ 768

WE ALSO OFFER LOCAL PACKAGES
FOR INQUIRIES AND RESERVATIONS YOU MAY CALL OR VISIT US AT.
COLORS TRAVEL & TOURS
RM. 611 PACIFIC BLDG QUINTIN PAREDES ST BINONDO, MLA.
TELS 241-8176 TELEFAX 242-0788
EMAIL colorstravel@fastmail.fm

Stem cells help reverse Parkinson's in monkeys

WASHINGTON—Stem cells taken from tiny monkey embryos and implanted in the brain reversed some of the Parkinson's symptoms in monkeys used to study the disease, Japanese researchers reported on Monday.

Their study, published in the Journal of Clinical Investigation, supports arguments that stem cells taken from days-old embryos can be used to replace damaged tissues in a range of diseases, experts said.

But they also cautioned that the study was preliminary and needed much more follow-up.

Yasushi Takagi and colleagues at Kyoto University grew stem cells from early monkey embryos and coaxed them into becoming, or differentiating into, neurons. They then transplanted these into the brains of monkeys who had been given a Parkinson's-like condition using chemical damage.

Parkinson's is caused when key brain cells that produce the message-carrying chemical dopamine die off. Symptoms start with a trembling and patients can end up paralyzed. There is no cure.

Cell transplants have been a big hope of researchers, and many groups have tried transplanting brain cells into patients, including cells from the fetuses of pigs and humans.

Proponents of embryonic stem-cell research believe their field offers a good opportunity, as these cells have the ability to become a range of tissues without causing immune reactions.

Opponents say using a human embryo for such research or even treatment is unethical. Current law forbids the use of US federal funds for most embryonic stem-cell research.

Jun Takahashi and colleagues coaxed monkey embryonic stem cells into becoming neurons and then added FGF20, a growth factor that is produced exclusively in the area of the brain affected by Parkinson's disease.

Then they transplanted the cells into the brains of macaques. The monkeys showed reduced symptoms from their Parkinson's-like disease and when they were killed, the transplanted cells were found to have grown in their brains, Takahashi's team said.

Dr. William Langston of the Parkinson's Institute in Sunnyvale, California, called the study a milestone but noted that the brain cells made by the Japanese team did not survive very well.

"Clearly the study reported here will advance research aimed at validating the use of stem cells to treat neurodegenerative disease," Langston wrote in a commentary.

"And this is most welcome, particularly for investigators working on strategies for cell replacement in the United States," Langston added, referring to the political controversy over embryonic stem cells. *Reuters*

Six South Korean ministers under fire for cheating scandal

SEOUL—South Korean President Roh Moo-Hyun said Tuesday he would conduct a Cabinet reshuffle to replace six ministers, aides said.

Those affected would include Education Minister Ahn Byung-Young who has been under fire over a recent cheating scandal involving hundreds of students on a state-run college admission test, they said.

The five others were the ministers of agriculture, home affairs, government legislature, gender equality, and maritime affairs, they said.

"President Roh confirmed the imminent reshuffle while presiding over a Cabinet meeting today," a presidential Blue House official said.

He said the presidential office would name new ministers in a formal announcement later Tuesday.

South Korean police last month rounded up some 300 people, mostly high school pupils, for cheating on the college admission test by using mobile phones to exchange text-written answers or fielding substitutes.

The cheating scam rocked South Korean society in which a good college education holds the key to wealth and status. *AFP*

Canada quarantines farm in mad cow search

WINNIPEG, Manitoba—The Canadian government has quarantined a farm in Alberta in its search for cattle connected to the country's second case of mad cow disease, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency said on Monday.

Veterinary officials told reporters they were trying to find cattle related to the latest case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy, as well as others that may have eaten the same contaminated feed.

Officials confirmed Canada's second case of mad cow disease on Sunday. The country's first case was discovered in May 2003 and a US case found in December 2003 was later traced back to a Canadian farm.

All three animals were born before a 1997 North American ban on feeding cattle protein made from cattle, sheep and other ruminant livestock—a practice thought to spread the disease.

"I think it's too premature in our investigation to know if there are linkages," said Gary Little, a senior veterinarian with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

Government and industry officials down-played Canada's latest case, confirmed late on Sunday, because they said they expected a few more cases would turn up with stepped-up testing.

Government and industry officials downplayed Canada's latest case, confirmed late on Sunday, because they said they expected a few more cases would turn up with stepped-up testing. *Reuters*

SPECIAL PROMO!!!
₱16,500
Plus 7 Telephone Units
(Brand New)
PANASONIC MAIN SYSTEM
• 3 Lines 8 Locals
• 12 Lines 48 Locals
• 500 Locals Expandable
Panasonic PABX
Authorized sub-dealer
Intel Communication Corp.
316 Aurelio Bldg. 1, 9th Ave., Caloocan City
363-1083 • 364-8277
FREE DEMO

HAVE A COMPETITIVE EDGE!
Study at
VERNON TAPALLA'S
COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALISTS and THE WRITING INSTITUTE
— Only P2,500 PER COURSE —
SCB The Success & Confidence Building Program
CP1 On Speech Improvement, Effective Self-Presentations & Personality Development
CP2 On Grammar & Conversational English
CP3 On Public Speaking & Leadership Training
WP1 On Business & Technical Writing
WP2 On Feature & Creative Writing
JCP On Speech, Grammar, Public Speaking, Confidence Bldg., Personality Dev't.,
+ Reading and Comprehension for kids
PRIVATE TUTORING & CORPORATE TRAINING ARE AVAILABLE
MAKATI - 845-0886 / 753-1049 ALABANG - 753-1048

IWATA TIME RECORDERS
DURABLE & RELIABLE, ALMOST 20 YEARS IN THE MARKET NOW
FREE DEMO
Digital Clock 10:10
Operates during brownouts
Uses 6 Columns Time Card
Analog Clock
P9,300.00 MODEL: CH-1A
P9,500 = E2A 2color printing Red for Late Black for Punctual
P12,850.00 MODEL: CW-1A
E2A 2Color & CH-1A/CW-1A 1Color Printing, Programmable Alarm, Memory & Battery Back-Up for brown-out use, Mark printing for Late & O.T., Dual Time Display, Perpetual Calendar
VERY HEAVY DUTY
SOLE DIST.:
COLENT ENTERPRISE CO.
Tels. 412-4317, 740-3815, 742-8139 to 42, 411-2396 to 98
Fax 411-2399 E-mail: colent@sfi.com.ph

Don't waste money on fake hand trucks that rust & break
PRESTAR BRAND
• Stronger steel body and even better paint
• More heavy duty and will last you longer than fake China made hand trucks
• Capacity: 150 up to 400 kgs.
Buy only the original hand truck brand
Can be folded flat and carried inside the truck
Bring down Prestar from truck
Handle lift-up easily
More efficient, faster delivery, saves you time & money
DEXTERTON
Dexterton Corporation
157 Sgt. E. Rivera St., (Near Damar Village) Quezon City
Tel.: 362-1111 ; 361-6006 Fax No.: 362-0524
email: info@dexterton.com www.dexterton.com

COPIERS Sales/Rentals
RICOH • Canon • Olivetti • Savin
Also Available : LIQUID COPIERS
BRAND NEW! RICOH FT 3813 BEST FOR BUSINESS P 49,900. ONLY
P 15,000. ONLY POWDER TYPE FT 3320 15 CPM
BRAND NEW CANON FC 200 FOR PERSONAL USE P 15,000. ONLY
RECON FULL COLOR DIGITAL COPIER P 15,000. ONLY
PARTS & SUPPLIES AVAILABLE FOR MOST COPIER BRANDS!
COPYTRADE®
Copytrade Bldg. 550 MF Jhocson St. Sampaloc, Manila (Beside Nat'l Univ)
Tels. 749-8155 to 56
781-3472 • 749-8216
www.copytrade.com.ph
• RINGBINDERS / LAMINATORS CUTTERS/BLUEPRINT/RISO
• FAX MACHINES, ETC.
• ACCEPT COPIER RENTALS FOR SHORT EVENTS
• BUY/TRADE-IN OLD COPIERS

CASH FOR YOUR DIAMONDS
Go Direct To The Specialist
Right Appraisal Right Price
CASH
All transactions strictly confidential
CASH PAID INSTANTLY
Buying Diamonds 2 carats to 50 carats or bigger
Preferably Round, Emerald or Old Miner's (Antigo) Cut
Mondays to Saturdays 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
JOAILLIER
Fine Jewelry
Ground Floor Dusit Hotel Nikko, Ayala Center, Makati City
Tel.Nos.: 817-8855/815-3191

TOURS & FESTIVALS
OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE
Mexico City, Ocotlan, Cuernavaca, Taxco, Teotihucan, etc.
Via Los Angeles. file for US VISA now!
ATI-ATIHAN + Boracay P 4,198 Jan. 14-16
INDIA Spectacular Independence Parade Jan. 25 with Taj Mahal + Bangkok Shopping
GRAND TOUR OF CHINA
15 days - Beijing, Xian, Guilin, Shanghai, Hangzhou
(the 7 most beautiful)
SINULOG P 3, 198 Jan. 21-23 Extn. Bohol
DINAGYANG Jan. 21-23 P 2, 490
4 days
HONGKONG $ 205
BANGKOK (Extn. Pattaya) $ 210
SINGAPORE $ 305
CRUISES
12 nights Australia & New Zealand
Jan. 30/Feb. 11/Feb.23
$ 2, 345 fly/cruise
Adam's EXPRESS TRAVEL
Serving lifetime memories
1131 Mabini, Manila • Tels.: 521-1651 / 38 / 98 • 536-1737 • 522-3876 - 77 • Fax: 521-2255

TOURS more than just DESTINATIONS
All meals & Fully Escorted tours
SOUTH AMERICA 18 days - Leaves: April 05, 2005
AFRICA South Africa, Kenya, Zimbabwe & UAE 20 days - Leaves: Aug. 09, 2005
TURKEY, GREECE & EGYPT Without Egypt (14 days) & With Egypt (17 days) Tour Leaves: March 31
SCANDINAVIA THE FJORDS & RUSSIA Without Russia (17 days) & With Russia (23 days) Tour Leaves: May 04
Eastern EUROPE with Slovenia 17 days - Leaves: Apr. 22 / June 1, 2005
AUSTRALIA and NEW ZEALAND 18 days – Leaves: April 18, 2005
ALASKA & THE CANADIAN ROCKIES Best Spring Land & Cruise Tour 15 days - Leaves: May 14, 2005
Giving you not only the great experience... ...but the Extraordinary Service no else offers.
TOUR ORGANIZERS International (Phils.) Inc.
Reserve now, call PTAA Member Lic. No. 01 Mnl. 2005
TELS: 522-2649 • 525-0830
524-8867 • 526-0740
1180 Gen. Luna St., Ermita Mla.

YOUR FOOL-PROOF TIME RECORD SYSTEM HAS FINALLY ARRIVED!
David-Link FingerScan
Advantages:
• Finger-driven technology in 1 sec. ID time or less
• Works well with dry, moist or even rough fingertips
• Stand alone capability even without a PC
• 30,000-record storage (downloadable)
• 1,000-user capacity
David-Link Bioclock III
David-Link Bioclock I
With software support from
Time and Attendance Management Software (bundled with Fingerscan)
Complete Payroll Management Software (Optional)
We also offer Time Recorders, Check Writers, Binding Machines, Laminators, Money Counters, Duplicators & other office equipment.
Tel. nos.: 898-3431 / 898-3432 / 890-5310 / 890-5320 / 890-5327 / 896-7764
website: www.e-davidlink.com e-mail us at: inquire_dlink@yahoo.com

NIBOR
CASH for DIAMONDS
Nibor Diamond Buying Office of the Philippines
INTERNATIONALLY EXPERIENCED GEMOLOGISTS
• INSTANT CASH for 1 1/2 carat & above, antiques and modern jewelry. Also old-cut diamonds.
• WE ACCEPT LOANS on important diamonds and jewelry.
ALL TRANSACTIONS KEPT CONFIDENTIAL
Tel. Nos.: 725-1823/ 726-1931 Mobile No.: (0917) 536-2456
Monday-Sunday 10am-5pm
Central Jewelry At The Jewellery, Greenhills Shopping Center, San Juan, M.M.

A BIG OPPORTUNITY TO BOOM YOUR INVESTMENT
VITO CRUZ TOWER II
Pablo Ocampo Sr. Ave. (formerly Vito Cruz), City of Manila
for as low as P11,392/mo. IN-HOUSE FINANCING AVAILABLE

CITYLAND 2003 Leading Condominium Developer (Presidential Awardee)
www.cityland.net
investment@cityland.net
812-2222•243-6565•818-8888
241-1894•(0919)310-8553

SPEECHPOWER
JANUARY FEBRUARY-MARCH 2005
High-paying jobs demand...
- English Proficiency
- Confident Personality
- Positive Work Attitude
Join our
–FREE SAMPLE LESSONS–
Jan 10 - Mon SP-Cubao
Jan 11 - Tue SP-España
Jan 12 - Wed SP-Taft
3:00 - 5:00 PM ; 6:00 - 8:00 PM
For more details, call:
Cubao •911-0832 •911-0833 •911-0834
España •735-7256 •735-7262 •735-7312
Taft •521-3601 •525-5310
www.speechpower.com.ph

Nikon
Cool Christmas with COOLPIX Giveaways
Promo Period from Nov. 15,2004 to Jan. 16, 2005
Capture special memories this Christmas with the Nikon cameras. Buy selected Nikon Camera models and you're entitled to holiday giveaways that will surely make your Christmas even more memorable.
COOLPIX 8800 - 8.0 Megapixels, 10x Zoom-Nikkor lens, CompactFlash™ Card Type I/II, Li-ion rechargeable battery SRP P 58,650.00 FREE! Velbon Tripod
COOLPIX 5100 - 5.0 Megapixels, 3x Zoom-Nikkor lens, SD Memory card, 1.6 inches TFT LCD, AA rechargeable battery SRP P 19,300.00 FREE! 128 MB SD CARD
COOLPIX 4800 - 4.0 Megapixels, 8.3x Optical zoom, SD Memory card, Li-ion rechargeable battery FREE! 128 MB SD Card SRP P 22,370.00
COOLPIX 4200 4.0 Megapixels, 3x Optical Zoom-Nikkor ED Lens, 4x Digital Zoom, 12MB Internal Memory, Pictbridge Compatible FREE! 128 MB SD Card SRP P 21,640.00
COOLPIX 3700 - 3.2 Megapixels, 3X Optical Zoom, Macro Shooting as close as 4cm, with 16MB Memory Card, TV size movie with audio recording FREE! 128 MB SD Card SRP P 17,920.00
COOLPIX 3200 3.2 Megapixels, 3X Optical Zoom-Nikkor Lens, 14.5MB Internal Memory, Continuous Movie Recording w/ Audio
FREE! 128 MB SD Card SRP P 15,590.00
DIGITAL SLR CAMERA D70 RIDATA 6.1 Megapixels, RGB CCD Image Sensor, 3 fps up to 144 Shots Continuous Shooting, Pictbridge Compatible CompactFlash™ Card Type I/II and Microdrive™ Card
FREE! 256 MB CF Card SRP P57,225.00
With SB 800 FLASH UNIT & 18-70mm AF Zoom Lens SRP P93,950.00 FREE! 256 MB CF Card SAVE P 6,000.00
With 18-70mm AF Zoom Lens SRP P73,115.00 FREE! 256 MB CF Card
COOLPIX 8400 - 8.0 Effective Megapixels - 3.5x Optical Zoom - Wideangle Ultra Zoom - Magnesium Alloy Body FREE! Velbon Tripod SRP P 52,630.00
COOLPIX 2200 - 2.0 Megapixels, 3X Optical Zoom-Nikkor Lens, 14.5MB Internal Memory, Continuous Movie Recording FREE! 128 MB SD Card SRP P 12,250.00
COOLPIX 5200 - 5.1 Megapixels, 3x Optical Zoom-Nikkor ED Lens, 4x Digital Zoom, Aluminum Body, 1.6-inch Macro Mode, 12MB Internal Memory FREE! 128 MB SD Card SRP P 25,550.00
D1x - 5.33 Megapixels, 3 frames/sec., 9 consecutive shots, CompactFlash™ Card Type I/II Microdrive™ Card SRP P200,000.00
D2H - 4.1 Megapixels, 8 frames/sec. consecutive shots, CompactFlash™ Card Type I/II Microdrive™ Card SRP P177,550.00
COOLPIX 8700 8.0 Megapixels, 8X Optical Zoom-Nikkor ED Lens, 12 Scene Modes, Magnesium Alloy body, Vari-angle LCD Monitor, P, S, A, M Exposure Modes, CompactFlash™ Type I/II and Microdrive™ Compatible FREE! Velbon Tripod SRP P 55,150.00
COOLPIX 5700 - 5.0 Megapixels 8X Optical Zoom-Nikkor Lens, 4X Digital Zoom Magnesium Alloy body, Vari-angle LCD Monitor, 32 MB CompactFlash™ Card Lithium Ion Rechargeable Battery FREE! Velbon Tripod SRP P 50,700.00
COOLPIX 5400 - 5.1 Megapixels, 4X Zoom-Nikkor Lens, CompactFlash™ Card Type I/II, 512MB/1GB Microdrive™ with 32MB CF Card FREE! Velbon Tripod SRP P 40,600.00
PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO 5730 SERIES OF 2004
[illegible]
Exclusive Philippine Distributor:
COLUMBIA GLOBAL PHOTO SALES CORP.
129 - 135 G. Roxas St., San Francisco Del Monte, Quezon City
Tels.: 363-7463 • 363-8550 • 365-0927 / 28 • 414-3110 Fax No.: (632) 364-3334
E-mail: sales_mktg@columbiaglobal.net • www.columbiaglobal.net

DLI GENERICS SINCE 1986
Quality na gamot, sa presyong mas abot!!!
Suggested Retail Price August 8, 2004 • Makatitipid ng higit sa 80%

Analgesic/Antipyretic (Para sa kirot, lagnat o trangkaso)	DLI	Leading Brand	Savings
Mefenamic Acid susp. 50 mg/5 ml 60 ml	✓ 24.00	104.00	80.00/bot
Mefenamic Acid tab. 500 mg	✓ 1.70	20.85	19.15/tab
Paracetamol syrup 125 mg/5 ml 60 ml	✓ 21.70	63.50	41.80/bot
Paracetamol tab 500 mg	✓ 0.60	2.45	1.85/tab
Anti-biotic (Kontra-Bakterya)			
Amoxicillin cap. 250 mg	✓ 2.60	8.95	6.35/cap
Amoxicillin cap. 500 mg	✓ 3.70	15.75	12.05/cap
Amoxicillin susp. 250 mg/5 ml, 60 ml	✓ 45.10	144.00	98.90/bot
Ampicillin cap. 500 mg	✓ 6.50	14.15	7.65/bot
Chloramphenicol cap. 500 mg	✓ 3.20	37.75	34.55/cap
Chloramphenicol susp. 125 mg/5 ml 60 ml	✓ 40.40	394.75	354.35/bot
Co-trimoxazole tab (TM-160mg SMZ-800mg)	✓ 2.30	26.00	23.70/tab
Co-trimoxazole cap. (TM-80mg SMZ-400mg)	✓ 2.60	14.80	12.20/cap
Co-trimoxazole susp. (TM-40mg SMZ-200mg)	✓ 25.40	115.75	90.35/bot
Anti-cough (Para sa Ubo)			
Bromhexine HCL syrup 4 mg/5 ml, 60 ml	✓ 26.70	74.75	48.05/bot
Carbocisteine cap. 500 mg	✓ 2.40	12.25	9.85/cap
Carbocisteine susp. 100 mg/5 ml, 60 ml	✓ 32.70	87.25	54.55/bot
Anti-diarrhea (Para sa pagtatae)			
Loperamide cap. 2mg	✓ 1.80	10.25	8.45/cap

Mabibili sa sumusunod at sa mga botikang abot-kaya ang halaga.
Huwag ipagpapalit sa iba! Hanapin ang tatak DLI.
If out of stock, call 711-3033 712-4990 743-1636
Watsons YOUR PERSONAL STORE
EMILENE'S PHARMACY
Carlos SuperDrug
Rose Pharmacy
For factory prices visit. www.DLI-Generics.com for complete product & price information

Sangkatutak

BAGON
BONGGA

January 5 is Natio

JANUARY 5
TELEBABAD
TO DEATH DAY!

Walang sawang unlimited NDD calls to

PLDT landlines nationwide and all

Smart / Talk 'N Text cellphones for only ₱50.

Ngayon lang 'to! No need to apply.

Telebabad agad!

for more information
CALL
171

Iba Pa Rin Ang M

Offer is open to all PLDT NDD-activated postpaid residential subscribers. Should you need assistance, call 171.
Calls below ₱50 will be charged based on regular rate. Existing Value Plus and Call Plan subscribers are excluded from this offer.

LDT

a Saya No.3

G TAON
NG TAON

nal Telebabad Day

JANUARY 5 - 9
NAKAKALOKANG SALE!

- Residential landlines - free installation.
- Free up to 2 months monthly fee.
- MyDSL residential plans - up to 50% off on monthly service fee on the first year!

Punta na at apply na! Available **only** sa PLDT Business Offices nationwide and promo booths in SM Megamall, SM Bacoor, SM Dasmariñas, SM City Cebu, SM Iloilo and SM Batangas.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3567, Series of 2004. See flyers for details.

FIESTA CARAVAN!

Abangan ang Home Rewards Caravan na mag de-deliver ng libreng regalo sa:
• Bacolod • Batangas • Cavite • Cebu • Iloilo
• Makati • Mandaluyong • Marikina
• Pasig • Taguig

LDT
y PLDT Landline

Abangan!
Sangkatutak Na Saya Na May Kasunod Pa!

ISSN 0116-2642 INQUIRER Vol. 20 No. 28

Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: http://www.inq7.net

OPINION

Text us your feedback: inquirer opi name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.

Publisher **Isagani Yambot**
Editor in Chief **Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc**
Managing Editor **Jose Ma. D. Nolasco**
Associate Editor **Abelardo S. Ulanday**
Associate Editor for Readership **Rosario A. Garcellano**
News Editor **Artemio T. Engracia Jr.** • *Chief, News Day Desk* **Nilo B. Paurom**
Opinion Editor **Jorge V. Aruta**
National Editor **Pergentino B. Bandayrel Jr.**
City Editor **Gerry Lirio**
Senior Desk Editor **Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.**
Editorial Consultant **Amando Doronila**
Chief Photographer **Ernie U. Sarmiento**
Art & Design Director **Lynett A. Villariba**

Board Chairman **Marixi R. Prieto**
President **Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez**
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing **Renato R. Reinoso**
Senior Vice President for Corporate Services **David O. Valdes**
VP for Advertising **Felipe R. Olarte**
AVP for Circulation **Gloria P. Lardizabal**

All rights reserved. Except as permitted by law, no part of the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means stored in a database or retrieval system without its prior written permission.

Solidarity

EDITORIAL

IT is right for President Macapagal-Arroyo to attend the special meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations that will discuss the setting up of programs to mitigate the impact of future disasters in the region. It is what is expected of the region's leaders, who are going to Jakarta not just to do some forward planning but to demonstrate regional, even global, solidarity with the countries that were hit by the earthquake and tsunamis. The President will be at the summit not just in a personal capacity but to represent the entire country, which needs to stand up and be counted. The world, after all, did rally to our country's aid in the wake of the recent typhoons, and the country must do the same for other peoples stricken by disaster. Filipinos, too, died in the tsunamis, making relief and reconstruction directly our country's concern.

The government's decision to send medical and forensic teams to Thailand, Sri Lanka and Indonesia recalls the aftermath of the great earthquake in 1991, when foreign volunteers and experts came to the Philippines to help. Indeed, there are innumerable instances of disasters and misfortunes that have struck our country, which triggered the spontaneous arrival of experts. It is not just an act of generosity for the Philippine government to send people, it is our nation's solemn duty. Each country must do what it can.

While the government says it isn't donating cash because it has to attend to disaster relief at home (which is understandable), Filipinos from all walks of life are quietly finding ways to make donations. Filipinos abroad are among the millions around the world who are giving what they can to international humanitarian organizations. The wealthier members of Asean may be poised to donate significant sums of money, but at least the Philippines is sending its people to help. The Philippines is giving all it can, while other countries, like the United States, practically had to be shamed into giving more.

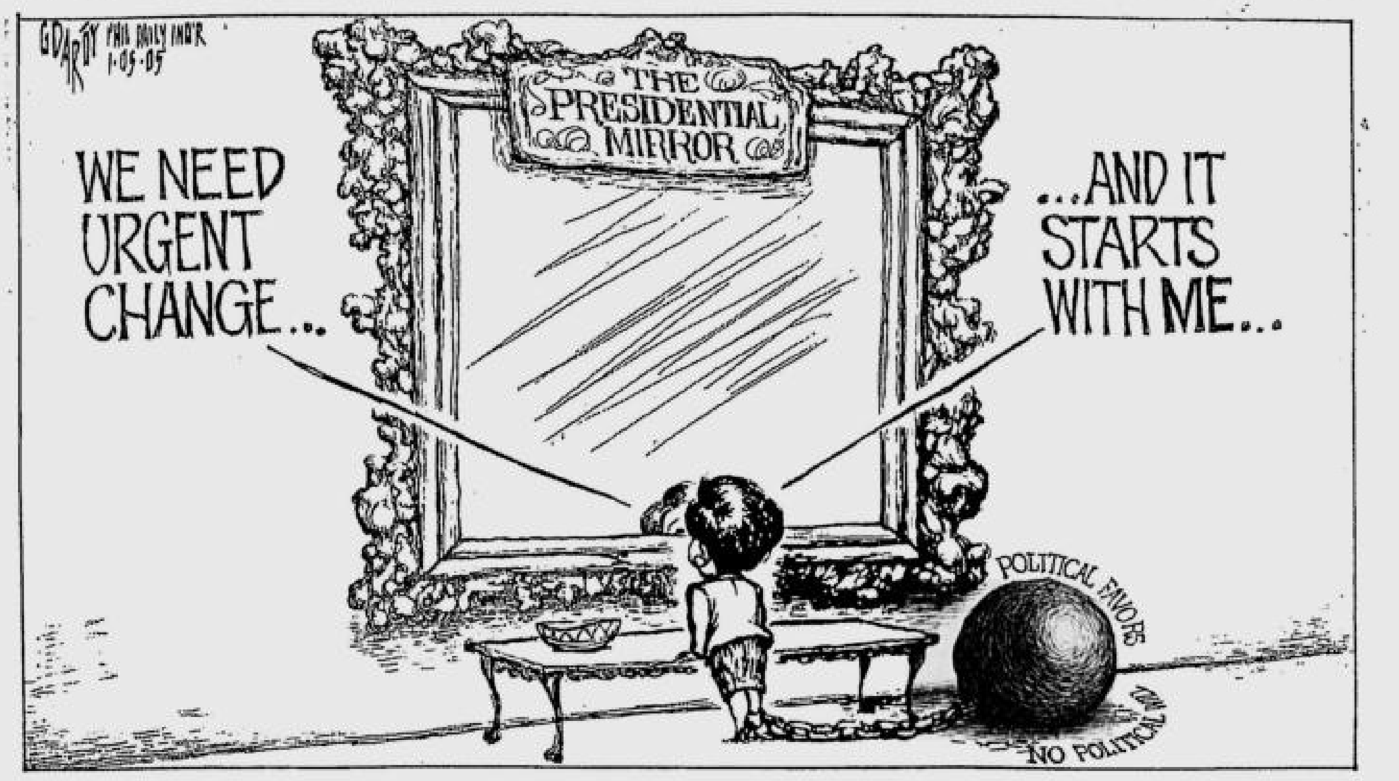
Disappointment with US assistance stemmed, we suspect, as much from suspicions that the amount of aid it offered was small at the start because it didn't think it had vast strategic interests in places such as Sri Lanka, as because the hundreds of Americans still missing indicated that the tsunami was as much an American disaster as it was for any of the countries directly struck by it.

The criticisms weren't just leveled at the United States. Great Britain got it too and promptly raised its initial aid allocation fifteenfold, as did Australia which raised its assistance tenfold. Significantly, these three countries are the leaders of the "coalition of the willing" that continues to fight the war in Iraq.

The reasons are quite obvious. From an initial $35 million, the United States has increased its assistance to $359 million. And yet what does the actual sum represent? A Tomahawk cruise missile costs about $1.2 million each and the Lockheed F-117A Nighthawk stealth fighter-bomber costs $45 million each. The Pentagon budget includes $780 million to buy 12 additional D-5 Trident II nuclear missiles for the Trident submarine. Put another way, the initial official American assistance to tsunami victims cost less than 40 cruise missiles, less than one stealth fighter, and even the increased official assistance is half of what the American government has budgeted for more nuclear ballistic missiles than it already could conceivably need.

In other words, nations such as the United States, which have been spending millions, billions, even trillions on waging war, on their own only thought of donating mere millions to help nations afflicted by one of the greatest natural disasters in recorded history.

The initial stinginess of official American aid came across as all the more disappointing in the wake of the spontaneous generosity of Americans. From stories of aid groups receiving the contents of kids' piggy banks, to the rock group Linkin Park giving $100,000, to actress Sandra Bullock donating $1 million of her own funds, and online retailer Amazon.com (working with the American Red Cross) getting $13.2 million from hundreds of thousands of people, private generosity has put official American generosity to shame. Former US Presidents George Bush Sr. and Bill Clinton have crossed party lines to come together to ensure that assistance is efficiently and properly allocated and spent.



Footbridges near high-tension wires

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE METRO Manila Development Authority has bared its plans for the new year to ease the traffic gridlock that is the bane of the metropolis. The plans include the extension of the number-coding to Saturday and the construction of more footbridges as well as elevated U-turn roads. The latter would be like miniature flyovers and would therefore cost a lot of money.

Complementing the footbridges are steel fences on the median islands to prevent pedestrians from crossing the street below the footbridges, thus making Metro Manila look like Laguna Lake with all its fish pens.

The MMDA's new pink-and-blue steel footbridges are attractive compared to the old solid, heavy concrete pedestrian overpasses that, alas, have become a haven for sidewalk vendors and holdup artists. Because the concrete sidings cover them from below, vendors have practically appropriated for themselves some pedestrian overpasses. And because the roof of the overpass protects them from sun and rain, they have made some overpasses their living quarters. What's more, because streamers of politicians and commercial billboards cover the "windows" of the overpasses, they have become some sort of private enclave for vendors, squatters, snatchers and holdup men. Visit the Philcoa overpass in Quezon City and you will see what I mean.

My own granddaughter, coming home from school, was held up there before Christmas and her cell phone was taken. There were many people on the overpass, mostly vendors, but nobody helped her. The felon must have many friends among them.

That is why many pedestrians avoid going up the overpass at night and thus risk life and limb crossing at street level. Some overpasses are dimly lighted or not lighted at all. Either the MMDA's maintenance people are negligent or the vendors and derelicts who sleep on the overpasses deliberately steal the bulbs to keep the place dark.

Thus, the new steel footbridges are better. You can see the people up there from below and they are lighted by the street lamps. And because they have no roofs, they're no good for vendors and squatters. The danger is when politicians put too many streamers and billboards on them so that the people cannot see what is going on up there.

But the other side of the coin is this: The new footbridges are dangerous. Some of them are situated very near high-tension wires of Meralco. Pedestrians using them can get electrocuted if the wires are not relocated. Steel is a very good conductor of electricity. Look at the new footbridges on Commonwealth and Quezon Avenues, a number of them are only a few feet below high-tension wires carrying thousands of volts of electricity. The one being constructed (very slowly) at the corner of Commonwealth and Tandang Sora is even situated below two transformers.

Remember the transformer that exploded in Tondo and poured boiling oil on schoolchildren below?

There are no high-tensions wires around the Quezon Memorial Park opposite the Quezon City Hall, but the city government does not want footbridges there. This is a very wide rotunda, with 12 lanes and no median island. Pedestrians crossing over to the park have to hurdle hundreds of vehicles speeding around the Circle. There are no traffic lights to stop oncoming traffic while pedestrians are crossing. A traffic aide directs traffic near City Hall but nowhere else. Footbridges are urgently needed here, but I understand Mayor Feliciano Belmonte prefers an underpass instead so as not to spoil the skyline with footbridges.

But an underpass soon becomes a haven for vendors, squatters and derelicts, as what happened to the underpasses in Quiapo and Plaza Lawton. Until Mayor Lito Atienza decided to cleanse and reopen them, they were largely unused because people were afraid to go down there.

I think Belmonte should dwell on this. Lighting up the underpasses and posting policemen in them 24 hours a day will rack up a hefty maintenance bill, not to count the cost of digging up the street with the resulting traffic chaos. I think the footbridge is the lesser evil.

* * *

Let's go now to the U-turn slots. Isn't the MMDA overdoing this?

All the intersections are blocked and motorists have to drive a few blocks in search of a U-turn slot. Because half of the street is blocked to protect U-turning vehicles from accidents, the system has only increased bottlenecks. A four-lane street becomes a two-lane one every few blocks and traffic piles up.

Undoubtedly, the U-turn slots have improved traffic in some places, but I think doing the same thing under the flyovers is overacting already.

Look at the Quezon Avenue-Edsa and Kamuning flyovers. Vehicles going north and south use the flyover; vehicles going east and west use the underpass. The ground level therefore should be used by left-turning vehicles. But big concrete blocks bar the way of vehicles that want to turn left or drive straight through. Instead they have to make a U-turn under the flyover. In the process, the center lane is also blocked and only two lanes are left on each side. Hence, more bottlenecks. I think this needs a second look, too.

This is obviously the reason for the MMDA's plan to build for elevated U-turn passages, to avoid the bottlenecks below. But as stated earlier, they will cost a lot of money. That is in addition to the cost of extra fuel to be used by hordes of vehicles looking for a U-turn flyover kilometers away from where they want to go.

Cancer is growth, too

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

IN 2001, a United Nations panel of hundreds of scientists released two reports on global warming. The first is the Working Group 1 Report on the scientific basis of climate change. That is no longer debatable, it says. "Emissions of greenhouse gases due to human activities continue to alter the atmosphere in ways that are expected to affect the climate." This has caused sea levels and sea temperatures to rise and reduced the planet's ice cover. "There is new and stronger evidence that most of the warming observed over the last 50 years is attributable to human activities." The report predicts that the earth's temperature could rise by 3 to 10 degrees Fahrenheit over the next century, the most rapid heating in 10 millennia.

The second report, "Climate Change 2001: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability" looks at the effects of global warming. The rising temperatures caused by the burning of fossil fuels, it says, could precipitate irreversible climate changes, including altered ocean currents, slowed circulation of warm water in the North Atlantic, and the crumbling of the mountain glaciers and Greenland ice sheet. The results are savage floods, disrupted water supplies, droughts, violent storms and the spread of cholera and malaria. The poor countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America will bear the brunt of these changes, which would further widen the gap between the world's rich and poor. "Most of the earth's people will be on the losing side."

Over the last century, the earth's temperature has risen by 1.1 degrees Fahrenheit, faster than the last 1,000 years combined. The 1990s were the hottest decade in those same 1,000 years. If temperatures should rise over this century to the extent the UN experts warn, all life on this planet would be threatened.

You look at the "natural" disasters that have hit the globe last year, including four hurricanes in Florida, in addition to the floods, droughts, extreme cold and snow in some countries, cyclones, earthquakes, landslides and tsunami that I mentioned last Monday, and you would be hard put not to believe it. In fact, since scientists like to say things with caution, they may be a little late in their timetable. Doubtless, it remains arguable if the earthquake and tsunami that hit Indonesia and several Southeast Asian and South Asian countries are directly related to global warming, but the collective mayhem over the last year culminating in that must give us pause and wonder if our sojourn in this planet has not become a lot more tenuous these days.

I do not know why Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo should say the tsunami that engulfed several Asian countries should make us more attractive as a tourist destination. It is not only a coarse thing to say, it is also a ridiculous one. Why should Boracay and the other beaches of this country be safer? If global warming causes the polar ice caps to melt and the sea levels to rise, no beach anywhere in the world will be safe. Indeed, archipelagos should be even worse off than others.

Fortunately, the UN studies say that there is still time to halt the earth's rapid decline. But it requires political will, the kind that at the very least sees the economic and social costs of environmental degradation. Those costs have never figured in the reckoning of various countries as they plunge headlong into growth, or economic survival. The deaths of 5,000 or so Filipinos in Ormoc have never greatly mattered in economic calculation. Neither have the deaths of Indians, Sri Lankans, Indonesians from forest denudation and the poisoning of the air and sea.

At least until last December. If the earthquake and tsunami have served any useful purpose, despite their grimness, it is to sound a wake-up call to all humanity about the unacceptable costs of killing the earth to live. It is a contradiction in terms.

Closer to home, I don't know why the storms of last December shouldn't compel us to reevaluate the wisdom of murdering Nature to survive. What made the effects of those storms particularly harsh was the logging out of the forests in those areas, made perfectly legal by the timber licenses the DENR gave to logging companies. People died for the most part because logs and not just mud tumbled on to them. To this day, I don't know why we keep blaming "illegal logging" for the mayhem, and refuse to punish the culprits.

Indeed, to this day, I don't know why we're not taking to the streets to protest the Supreme Court's decision to open mining to foreign investors. That is shooting ourselves in the head, given the devastating effects of mining—open-pit mining in particular—on local communities since the days of Marcopper. "But we have to grow" is the argument used to justify it; we are a poor country. Well, poverty is not an excuse to commit suicide. That growth carries with it a very steep price in terms of human lives and the welfare of communities, and in terms of the continuing livability of the various places of this country. I am tempted to suggest that we allow mining companies—as well as logging firms—to operate with impunity only on condition that their owners and managers and their families live in the very areas they operate on.

Cancer is growth, too, in case we forget. It is runaway growth of cells in one part of the body, causing the entire body to degenerate. And the owner of the body to experience excruciating pain. The way this country and the globe are reeling from the impact of "natural disasters," you wonder if the kind of growth we have been pursuing is not of the cancerous variety.

The UN studies remain hopeful we can still do something to halt our march to apocalypse, but it also says one other thing: That's not something we can put off for tomorrow, that is something we must do today.

Saving the survivors

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

WORLD leaders converge in Jakarta for the Asian tsunami disaster summit tomorrow to launch the largest international humanitarian relief effort ever. The immensity of the operation was described by United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan who said up to five million people who survived the tsunamis in at least 10 countries in South Asia, Southeast Asia and Africa face disease and starvation.

Worldwide government pledges to aid the victims have topped $2 billion, after a week of slow response by donor countries which were put to shame by the more spontaneous donations coming from ordinary people around the globe, responding to the acute distress of similarly ordinary people.

The death toll has climbed to 160,000, more than half of whom perished in Aceh province in Sumatra, Indonesia, which is hosting the relief summit tomorrow. The recovery of the dead has slowed, and relief effort has now shifted toward a more immediate priority, which is saving the survivors from another menacing disaster: another wave of death from the outbreak of diseases and hunger. The UN has warned that five million people are without food, clean water and adequate sanitation. Emergency relief organizations have reported outbreaks of contagious diseases, including diarrhea and cholera, arising from decaying corpses and polluted water.

Annan has urged international donors to keep on giving to stave off another humanitarian disaster, not to mention the huge funds needed to rebuild devastated infrastructure.

World leaders at the summit will be headed by Annan, US Secretary of State Colin Powell, along with Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao, Japan's Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, Australian Prime Minister John Howard, and leaders of Asean, including President Macapagal-Arroyo. Among the slowest to respond to the global tragedy, the Philippines nearly missed the bus. It sent a small team of forensic experts and medical workers at a time this types of aid were badly needed and most useful to identify the dead, and to give medical services to the injured and the dying.

Since the Philippines is hard-pressed for funds to take care of its own disaster victims in recent typhoons and flooding, it can at least join an international effort to establish a worldwide tsunami early warning system, a proposal being pushed by President Bambang Susilo Yudhoyono of Indonesia, who chairs the summit.

Of the 160,000 deaths (as of latest count), 80,428 were from Indonesia, 4,500 from Thailand, 72 from Malaysia and 36 from Myanmar, all members of Asean, which collectively forms the hardest hit region and which, in an act of solidarity in time of regional distress, have been thrust into the center of the global relief effort although they have meager financial resources.

The Philippines has said it is prepared to back Indonesia's proposal for a tsunami early warning system and to contribute a staff of volcano and earthquake experts to a warning center. Filipino experts form part of the Philippine ministerial delegation to the summit and are more useful than bureaucrats.

Indian Ocean delta countries have rarely been struck by tsunamis, and this is the reason for the absence of a warning system, exposed by the Dec. 26 disaster. The Pacific Rim countries are covered by warning systems on earthquakes.

Most tsunamigenic earthquakes occur in the Pacific and rarely in the Indian Ocean because under the Pacific lies the earthquake zone known as the Ring of Fire of which the Philippines is part. The Pacific is laced by networks of seabed pressure detectors.

The Philippines has a stake in a wider earthquake monitoring system not only because it is in the Ring of Fire but more so because on Aug. 23, 1976, a tsunami in southwest Philippines killed 8,000.

As international agencies raced against time to ward off a new death wave, donor countries bumped up their aid to $2.57 billion. The leading donors were Japan which gave $500 million: the United States, $350 million (from $15 million at the beginning); Asian Development Bank, $325 million; World Bank, $250 million; Britain, $96 million; Italy, $95 million; Sweden, $80 million; China, $60.42 million; France, $56.18 million; Denmark, $54.88 million; Australia, $46.48 million (later increased to a $500-million aid package as Howard announced yesterday); the European Union, $40.31 million; the Netherlands, $34 million; Canada, $33 million; and Germany, $27.21 million.

The aid flowed in larger amounts after Jan Egeland, the UN disaster coordination chief, criticized the rich countries for their early slow response to the disaster. The United States not only increased its aid pledge from $15 million to $350 million, it also dispatched the aircraft carrier, USS Abraham Lincoln, whose helicopters went into action to drop food aid and medical supplies to stricken areas in Sumatra.

Britain trebled its aid pledge to $96 million last week, making it the biggest donor at the time, after Prime Minister Tony Blair was criticized for remaining on holiday at an Egyptian resort.

Blair said he was "actively involved" in framing a response to the disaster. He said he had talked to Annan to ensure a long-term plan was being put in place to counter the devastation. Never at a loss for appropriate words to describe an overwhelming catastrophe, Blair said: "At first it seemed a terrible disaster, a terrible tragedy. But I think that as the days have gone on, people have recognized it as a global catastrophe. The consequences of this are not just short-term and immediate, but long-term, and would require a great deal of work by the international community in the months, if not years, to come."

Wounded souls and women of strength

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

NEAR the end of the last year, Corazon Alma de Leon, former chair of the Civil Service Commission and former secretary of the Department of Social Welfare and Development, sent me a copy of "Heart and Soul," a book which is actually a compilation of four books she had written between 1999 and 2004: "Heart and Soul 1 and 2," "Heart and Soul 3: Lessons from Wounded Souls," and "Heart and Soul 4: Memo Notes to Marita."

Of the four books, "Lessons from Wounded Souls" seems the most intriguing, having been structured to follow the Stations of the Cross and consisting of reflections on various social problems that Alma had encountered in the course of her work in government and with various civic organizations.

Here's an excerpt from "The Carrying of the Cross," a reflection on the fate of child survivors of abuse, an addendum, as it were, to the previous columns on the resilience of child survivors and how their adult caregivers could tap into the children's own strengths to set them on the road to recovery.

* * *

WE all carry many crosses from family and friends, with friends and family. But there is a cross that is truly difficult to carry and that is the cross of child abuse. For the scar is there, the chip is there and when the die is cast, only then will we know that the cross is no more for we have cast it aside and that we are free at last. These young girls have found their own freedom as they carried their crosses.

Benilda, 16, was admitted to a shelter when she was found roaming around Metro Manila. Her hearing and speech are both impaired and, as only she can tell, she related that she ran away from home because of maltreatment due to frequent quarrels of her parents. Kind souls sponsored her medical assessment and she was provided a hearing aid. She is now in school sponsored by a volunteer couple and adjusting well in the school for the deaf and got the most improved award. She is awaiting travel to the US for medical treatment to be sponsored by the volunteer couple.

Nadine, 15, was picked up by a nun through their community outreach program. She lived with her grandmother who had no resources to care for her...She was placed in the home for neglected children where it was discovered that she (had) a disability, due to cerebral palsy...(After) surgery (she) can now walk with the aid of a walker...She never stops dreaming and still believes that a bright future lies ahead of her.

Rina, 17,...was referred for temporary shelter at the children's home after she voluntarily left her employer's home in 1997. Before her employment, she was cared for by a surrogate father who later left for the US. She was endorsed to the relatives of her surrogate father where she was maltreated. Later she sought the help of her teacher who eventually became her employer...

Melanie, 13, orphaned, was brought for protective custody to the children's home. She was physically abused by her parental grandaunt. Her mother died at childbirth while her father died (in a) robbery together with her sister. Her life with her grandaunt was full of pain as she was slapped, pinched, spanked and her hair pulled for any wrongdoing. She never felt loved and so she developed a certain amount of insecurity. She now looks forward to living with a maternal aunt.

* * *

WHAT lessons can we learn from these wounded souls? It is the lesson of hope. For when one has hope, hope has everything. Thus, the maxim "What you make out of life is all up to you" holds for these children.

We cannot thank Benilda, Nadine, Rina and Melanie enough for enabling us to see their stories...We are sorry that life has not been that kind to them, particularly with the uncaring society that envelops them. But they know, somewhere outside, there is love that awaits and this love when nurtured gives hope. And we said hope has everything.

Why do we need to learn from Benilda, Nadine, Rina and Melanie? Because after them there are still many wounded souls who suffer child abuse of many forms, psychological and physical abuse, neglect, cruelty, sexual abuse and emotional maltreatment...

These are the silent emergencies which need to be addressed here and now.

These are the crosses we all must bear for in the end it is our children, and children's children who will be "carrying the cross" and it continues to be sorrowful but a mystery no longer.

* * *

NINA Lim Yuson, president of the TOWNS Foundation, sent this Christmas message to all of us TOWNSwomen and it struck me as something so true and so wise that I decided to share it with all my readers of whatever sex or gender. Here's "the difference between a strong woman and a woman of strength."

A strong woman works out every day to keep her body in shape... but a woman of strength builds relationships to keep her soul in shape. A strong woman isn't afraid of anything... but a woman of strength shows courage in the midst of her fear.

A strong woman won't let anyone get the best of her... but a woman of strength gives the best of herself to everyone. A strong woman makes mistakes and avoids the same in the future... a woman of strength realizes life's mistakes can also be unexpected blessings and capitalizes on them. A strong woman wears a look of confidence on her face... but a woman of strength wears grace. A strong woman has faith that she is strong enough for the journey... but a woman of strength has faith that it is in the journey that she will become strong.

One last quote for the New Year: "I can handle anything that life throws at me. I may not be able to handle it well, or correctly, or gracefully, or with finesse, or expediently, but I will handle it."

History cannot be objective

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

AT THE BEGINNING of each semester, I require my students to go to the library and dig up the newspaper on the day they were born. Fortunately, the Internet is useless for this exercise, which requires physically going through a Philippine newspaper in hard copy or microfilm. They are also instructed to read the newspaper of the next day, if only to get to know what the Philippines was like on the day they came into the world. To validate their research, the students are made to ask their parents what they remember aside from having a baby on that day. Most of the parents do not recall anything significant, while the few who do are often proven wrong by the newspapers. Thus, the lesson to be learned in this research exercise is that sometimes parents are the most unreliable source of information.

When I read the papers submitted, I feel ancient, seeing that my students were born at the tail-end of the Marcos period. I must really be Jurassic since I grew up thinking that the Marcoses came with the tacky, gilded and over-carved furniture in Malacañang. For my students, the only connection with Marcos they have is Borgy the model, and that's a different story, even if both loved to lift their shirts and flaunt their abs.

Most students complain that nothing earthshaking happened on the day they were born. They wanted big news like the World Trade Center crashing down or the tsunami that recently devastated South Asia. Writing this makes them realize that good news is not news and does not normally appear in the papers.

There are no great omens that come with the birth of most great people, or if there were, then people did not notice. If we were to look back on the Christmas story, a giant star shed light on a manger in Bethlehem and nobody paid any attention, except three Magi carrying absolutely useless gifts for a newborn baby. Shepherds nearby had to be frightened by angels to take any notice.

What students find surprising is the peso-dollar exchange rate that is so far from today's P56.12 to $1. I'm probably old enough to be a parent to my students, but like them, I cannot imagine what my father describes as a Philippines where the exchange rate was P2 to $1.

Historical research is a way to see the world in a different time that information can be enjoyed purely for itself or can be used to give perspective to the present and the future. In 1978, Gilda Cordero Fernando put together a landmark book, "Turn of the Century," which gave us the word "coffee-table book." These lavish books under the GCF imprint were literally placed on the tops of coffee tables for guests to browse while waiting for a meal or their host. I enjoyed these books initially for the pictures, because they were so big and heavy one could not read them comfortably in bed. It was only later in life that I actually read the text and was surprised that the authors were a venerable lot: Teodoro Agoncillo, Nick Joaquin, Doreen Fernandez, Nicanor G. Tiongson, Felice Sta. Maria, Lorna Kalaw Tirol et al. Despite this, some academics snorted that GCF books were trivial or fluffy. Now that sounds really familiar: those terms have been used to describe this column and my teaching two decades later.

There was solid research in GCF books, but the format made it accessible. The only thing inaccessible here was their price or the fact that some people bought them for show rather than reading. I'm sure some parents probably told their children not to touch the coffee-table books for fear of soiling them.

One of my traumatic experiences was arguing with a librarian who wouldn't let me photocopy three pages from a GCF book. She gave me a lecture on copyright and intellectual property when whole books were being photocopied under her nose. GCF books were sacred.

Today, libraries are not that strict when you photocopy pages for personal or academic use. With sophisticated phones, you can photograph anything in a museum or library without asking permission.

Technology has changed, but the task of historical research is still the same solitary exercise of going to a library or archive to read. Reading the newspapers on the day they were born gives students a taste of historical research, writing about it makes them analyze and put data together into a coherent essay. If they just copied out the material, or worse photocopied the newspaper and submitted it, they get a low grade. But if they tried to make sense of the news and attempt some sort of interpretation from their perspective, now they are getting somewhere. If they compare and contrast the past and the present, it gives me great satisfaction and it merits a better grade.

History cannot be objective as we would want it to be. When given a mass of data, the historian has to use some and discard the rest, and this alone makes his work subjective.

I always tell my students that if you want to read something objective, all they have to do is read the white pages of the telephone directory from A-Z. Now, that is objective. When your fingers do the walking into the yellow pages, it is the next step, arranging the data in some form other than alphabetical.

As we return to school this week, I do hope my students learn something from my crazy assignments.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Pinays to watch

NOTWITHSTANDING the male connotations of the year of the cock, I propose this is going to be the year of the Pinay. And the reason is that we have so many able women, other than the President, charting the Philippines' fortunes as they hold key positions in politics, business, education and, let's not forget, mass media.

This is not to downplay the tremendous problems women face in the Philippines. Males still dominate and women often suffer grievously, but, in common with other Southeast Asian societies, we do live in a matricentric society where women can wield great influence and power. Even more fascinating is the way they keep a low profile, working slowly but surely to achieve their goals.

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

I thought of focusing on three Filipinas to watch during the next year, not because they're necessarily going to be making waves this year but because they epitomize that quiet strength, that subtle thoroughness that brings lasting and substantive results.

Susan Roces

Her legal name is Jesusa Sonora, but she is better known as Susan Roces, a popular actress who played lead roles in more than 40 films. She went into semi-retirement over the last few years but re-emerged in the public limelight late in 2003 when her husband, Fernando Poe Jr., ran for president. If FPJ was the reluctant politician, Susan Roces was said to have been even more wary of politics, but she played the role of the Filipino wife, standing by her husband in all his campaign sorties and smiling enigmatically when asked if she would take over her husband's candidacy if he were disqualified.

After FPJ's death in December, Susan Roces once again came into the limelight when she spoke out against what she felt was the mass media's biased coverage of her husband's campaign and lashed out against the insincerity of politicians now rushing to pay homage to FPJ.

The nation noticed, and approved, touched by her ability to speak out, mincing no words and yet maintaining her composure.

I am not surprised. Filipinas are strong, but Filipino widows are even stronger. Our widows have been known to surpass their husbands in business and politics. The potentials with Susan Roces are actually tremendous, given that she has far greater mass appeal than Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo or Cory Aquino.

Easily, Susan Roces could become someone like Sonia Gandhi, daughter-in-law and widow of Indian prime ministers. Despite strong public clamor for her to become India's prime minister last year, she declined and has, in the process, become an even more powerful woman. Like Gandhi, Susan Roces may yet prove her mettle by choosing to be political without entering the quagmires of politics.

Emerlinda R. Roman

Next month Dr. Emerlinda R. Roman will become the 19th president of the University of the Philippines. The fact that it took almost a hundred years for the university to have a woman president speaks volumes about the paradoxes of Filipino society's gender relations.

Dr. Roman's first year of office will be crucial, setting the tone for a centennial presidency that will impact not just the university but the entire nation. It has been a tumultuous century for the university, of grappling with its colonial and patriarchal beginnings, of growing up pains and explosive radicalism in the 1970s. Dr. Roman has seen the most crucial transitions, and has herself been involved in many of the uphill battles, having served more than 10 years as chancellor of UP's main campus in Diliman, Quezon City.

Even more daunting for Dr. Roman will be the practical problems of running a university that continues to have to live up to almost unrealistic expectations from the public about training the country's future leaders, even as Congress mercilessly cuts its budget each year. Dr. Roman's most immediate challenge will be defending a controversial new charter that will redefine the university as a state institution generating its own resources without necessarily becoming commercial.

There will be more to revitalizing the university than improving salaries for professors. Dr. Roman's leadership style will be crucial in dealing with the often vicious intramurals that plague government institutions and drive away some of our best professors. She is foremost a manager, a consensus builder who will listen graciously and silently to all sides but will speak up when needed, firmly, almost sternly. Yes, when I heard people explaining her style, I thought, just like a *nanay* (mother). There is hope yet for the university.

Patricia Evangelista

For the third Pinay to watch, I wanted to name someone young. Easily, that would be 18-year-old Patricia Evangelista, a speech communications major at UP (sorry for my bias) who beat 60 contestants from 37 other countries to win the 2004 Best Public Speaker competition in London.

Evangelista wrote her own speech, "Blonde and Blue Eyes," reflecting the ambivalence we face over the Filipino diaspora. She describes wanting to be "blonde, blue-eyed and white" in her childhood and then growing up, with a greater awareness of being Filipino, and labeling those who leave as deserters. We sense her dismay as she mentions that out of her brood of 16 cousins, there will only be five of them left in a few years because so many would have left to work and live overseas.

But Patricia becomes more optimistic, speaking of the Filipino diaspora in a borderless world as an opportunity for "an extension of identity." She speaks of Filipinos contributing to the world, and learning from these experiences. Ultimately, she says, "leaving sometimes isn't a matter of choice. It's coming back that is... A borderless world doesn't preclude the idea of a home."

I've seen Patricia interviewed on two television talk shows, once with Tina Monson Palma and once with Cito Beltran. She's sharp and feisty, avoiding clichés and empty rhetoric. At the same time, she can be refreshingly awkward at times, almost embarrassed with the recognition she's received. Simple *lang*, I would say, using the Tagalog-Spanish sense of the word. She has said she wants to work in mass media and I'll be watching, hoping she maintains her "simple" asset and resisting the temptation that so many of our mass media personalities succumb to: of becoming too self-absorbed, too messianic, too male.

Indeed, if Patricia Evangelista, Emerlinda Roman and Susan Roces are to leave their mark, it will be by carrying on a Pinay tradition that we see all the time in homes and in boardrooms, in classrooms and in Congress: of being strategic in choosing to speak up or being silent, of being nurturing and firm, of being of wise mind and of even wiser heart.

The INQUIRER is a member of the
PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE
The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

A hunger for heroes

THIS nation is hungry for heroes. The massive and sustained turnout of mourners at the wake and burial of Fernando Poe Jr. was not just a protest against a perceived political deception but a clear statement of a people's hunger for a leader who can command respect because of integrity and inspire trust because of love.

After decades of being used (as collateral for huge loans) and abused (by state terrorism and corruption), the politically exploited poor (photo-ops victims) and the demoted middle class have become a headless legion marching toward nowhere. Indeed, there exists a government. But the President proclaims a total log ban and the next day her Cabinet officials say otherwise, practically vetoing her proclamation. The leadership is like an orchestra playing different tunes at the same time.

We have a legislature that undeniably works hard—not for the entire nation though, but for itself and the party in power. Policymaking has become a function of numbers. Principled debate in quest of crystallized decisions has been replaced by the Speaker's rule of the carrot and stick.

Et tu, Supreme Court? There were times in the past when the Supreme Court stood strong even against the presidency in upholding the rule of law and the Constitution. The aggrieved looked to it not just as the legitimate, final arbiter of justice but a body imbued with an uncommon wisdom next only to God's. Today, we see only an ordinary group deciding and reversing itself and establishing irreversible precedents that affect the nation's life and commerce in shocking dimensions.

In Montesquieu's check and balance principle, the judiciary led by the Supreme Court is the nation's legal as well as moral compass. Do we see this now? When the ultimate judicial authority and the justice system lose the confidence of the people, where will the citizens go to seek redress?

This country needs a government that can lead without brandishing its military might. The Filipinos are a proud people—not in the sense of bragging and boasting—but in the way they respond to threats. They may step back in instant fear but they will call the challenge when the time is ripe. It is well that we remember this lesson from 1896—and, in a way, from Edsa 1 and 2—lest we have to reckon with a truly people-directed Edsa.

—EVA MAGGAY-INCIONG,
chair, RIZPEC Foundation
For Sustainable Development,
Rm. 301 Union Square Bldg.,
145 15th Avenue, Cubao, QC

Charity work should be publicized

IN HIS Dec. 28 column, Ramon Tulfo recalled an incident involving a civic group from Manila that wanted to donate a substantial volume of relief goods for the victims of the Mt. Pinatubo eruption some years back.

Unfortunately, then Olongapo Mayor Richard Gordon refused to accept the donation because the civic group wanted to bring along a photographer to document it for publication. "Charity work should never be known," Gordon allegedly said.

With due respect to Gordon, [now a senator] I beg to disagree with this view. As a member of a civic club in Davao City, I believe that charity work should be publicized, but not for personal aggrandizement. Why? Because civic organizations normally solicit donations for their civic projects from businessmen, executives, etc. In the interest of fairness, the donors should be informed where their donations are going. What would be a more effective way of doing this than through the media?

Furthermore, fund-raising is a never-ending activity of civic groups. If donors don't hear anything good about a civic organization's activities, you can't expect them to donate again.

—ISMAEL TABIJE,
Rotary Club of South Davao,
idtabije@yahoo.com

Senseless practice

I AM an avid reader of INQ7.net. I am elated to see how the INQUIRER gives importance to the views of its readers, especially on current issues.

One recent story that particularly caught my attention was the one on the fire in Bocaue, Bulacan, which was caused by firecrackers.

I just do not see why the Philippine government has to allow the manufacture and sale of these dangerous stuff. I have been in the United States for the last three years, and most states here ban firecrackers. Although there are pyrotechnic displays here on New Year's Eve, these are done by professionals. After the show, you can't hear any exploding firecrackers.

I guess we simply have been taken in by the common belief—said to have begun with the Chinese—that ushering the new year literally with "a lot of bang" rids our surroundings of bad spirits. But in reality, the practice brings us nothing but injuries, fires and senseless expenses. Let us instead get rid of this practice and, for sure, we will get used to its absence in no time.

—RONALDO MAGTOTO,
Pennsylvania, USA,
rlmagtoto@yahoo.com

Japan's new immigration law promotes human trafficking

THE MIGRANTE Sectoral Party calls on the Arroyo administration to immediately and appropriately act on the plight of Filipinos in Japan who will be affected by a new immigration law.

The Partial Amendment of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act aims to immediately decrease the number of "illegal foreign residents" in Japan, in reaction to a purported "deterioration of public security" and rampant human trafficking. The law could affect at least 31,000 overstaying Filipinos, 82,000 Filipino entertainers and thousands of Filipinas married to Japanese. The new law has outlawed their continued stay in Japan, effective Dec. 2, 2004. Thus, most of the 304,678 Filipinos in Japan may be subjected to the harsh, inhumane penalties and procedures under the law. These include warrantless arrests, jail terms, steep fines and deportation.

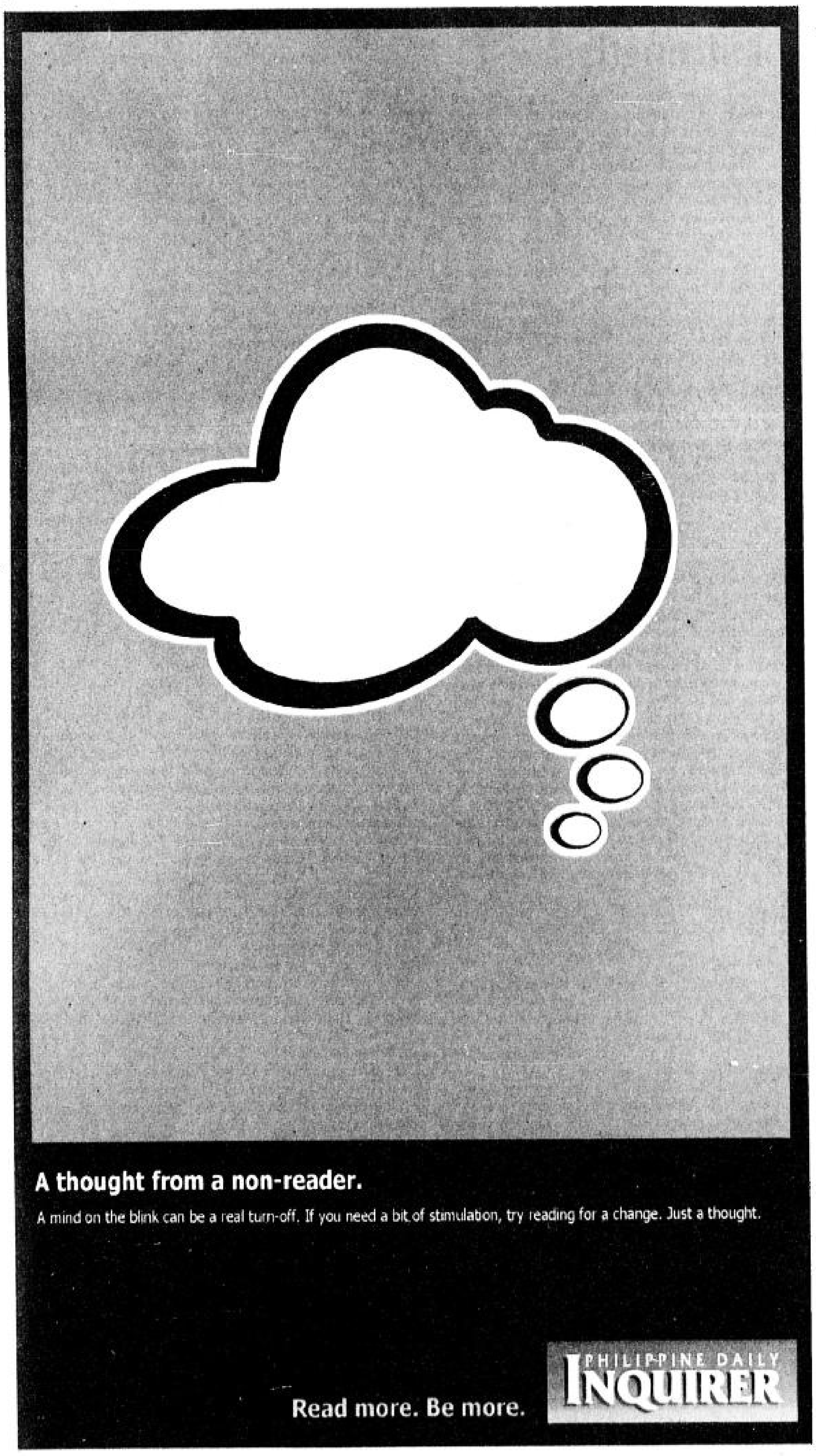
But the law and the crackdown on undocumented Filipinos in Japan do not address the issue of human trafficking. It will only raise revenues for the Japanese authorities by further penalizing Filipino victims of human trafficking. Meanwhile, human traffickers will go scot-free, continue wreaking havoc on the lives of foreign residents even as they amass more profits out of the blood and sweat of migrant workers.

The Arroyo administration has so far only expressed concern for the possible loss of $1 billion in remittances from Filipinos in Japan. It is, therefore, only seeking a moratorium in the implementation of the new law and looking for other country-destinations to deploy Filipina entertainers. In this light, both the Philippine and Japanese governments are in fact perpetrators in the trafficking of Filipinas.

Seeking a moratorium on the new law is only trying to temporarily stave off an impending tsunami of further abuse and criminalization of our compatriots in Japan. The Philippine government should exact all measures to protect the democratic rights and welfare of Filipinos in Japan who are victims of human trafficking.

Finally, Migrante strongly suggests that the Arroyo administration pursue the creation of stable job alternatives and livelihood opportunities for our people, especially our women, so that they are not forced into the web of human trafficking in Japan and elsewhere in the world.

—CONNIE BRAGAS-REGALADO,
chair, Migrante Sectoral Party
115-B Kamuning Road,
Quezon City



A thought from a non-reader.

A mind on the blink can be a real turn-off. If you need a bit of stimulation, try reading for a change. Just a thought.

Read more. Be more.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

A great lady of our times

IT was nice of the INQUIRER to do an article on the recent passing away of Princess Takamatzu of Tokyo. Her burial was attended by the royal family and government dignitaries as befits a great lady of our times.

I had the pleasure of knowing personally Princess Takamatzu, also known as Princess Kikuko, at the Korean Palace in Tokyo in 1971. That was 33 years ago.

Princess Takamatzu was the widow of the late Emperor Hirohito's younger brother, Prince Takamatzu, who died in 1987; granddaughter of the last of the shoguns; and the president of the Red Cross in Japan for many years.

Her involvement in social work brought us together. I got to know her when I was the president of the Manila Boys' Town Complex in Parang, Marikina which included the Girls' Town, Home for the Aged and the Founding Home for abandoned babies.

Princess Takamatzu gave special attention to another good friend, the late Estelita "Esty" Juco, who lost an arm and an eye during World Wart II. She treated Esty like a daughter. Esty called her "Princess Mama." When Esty fell ill of cancer shortly after President Aquino had nominated her as sectoral representative for the disabled, it was Princess Takamatzu who sent funds to pay for her hospitalization.

There were Christmases when Princess Takamatzu, who called me "Manoling," would call long distance on Christmas Eve to wish me "Merry Christmas."

Princess Takamatzu was an elegant and well educated lady who spoke perfect Oxford English. She was rather tall, very gracious and charming.

She and another sister never left Japan, but they were both tutored by English professors right in the palace where they lived.

I will always remember Princess Takamatzu with admiration and fondness. While her outlook in life was broad and in keeping with the times, she remained proper, strictly following the tradition of Japanese royalty.

—MANUEL L. MORATÓ,
Doña Consuelo Bldg.,
192-194 Tomas B. Morató Ave.,
Quezon City

Homosexuality is biology

ONE of the classic (literally and figuratively) books of the 20th century is the "Memoirs of Hadrian" (1954). The author, Marguerite Yourcenar, was a prominent literary figure in France and this book is considered to be her masterpiece. In fact, on the basis of this work, she became the first woman to be elected a fellow of the very exclusive French Academy.

Hadrian was in real-life one of the longest reigning, most successful and revered Roman emperors. He believed that war had to be avoided as much as possible. When Hadrian had to fight a war, he was a successful general. Hadrian built "Hadrian's Wall" in Britain. Today, the wall is being restored as a very popular tourist attraction.

In Yourcenar's book, Hadrian more or less writes his biography. Through a series of letters, the book takes the reader into the mind of Hadrian, sometimes in very intimate revelations. His most intimate sentiments are his neglect of his wife, a beautiful and intelligent woman; and his feelings for Antinous, a beautiful Greco-Roman youth, who died very young and was deified by Hadrian. Yourcenar's writing is very discreet and tasteful; no lurid sex scenes.

Why am I telling you all this? Well, it sometimes seems to me that with the current furor over homosexuality it is as if it never happened before. Homosexuality, from Socrates to some popes, has been a fact of life for million of years; it was already so even among the primates. Lesbianism has a long history too, as the ancient Ionian island of Lesbos testifies.

Homosexuality was an integral and ordinary part of the ancient Greco-Roman society. It is a European inheritance, especially in Spain where the influence of its Roman past still lingers. The country of the Inquisition and of rigid Catholicism is finally joining the human race. Same-sex lovers should have the same legal rights as other humans, according to the Spanish prime minister and his socialist colleagues, and to the European Parliament. It's simply biology.

For some reason that I cannot comprehend, the already fetid airwaves of Philippine television are littered with coarse and vulgar parodies of homosexuals, which the Filipino seems to find funny.

—ROBERT HANAN,
robhanan@robhanan.com

Where's that disgust against corruption?

I FIND it unfair of columnist Rina Jimenez-David to question the motives of Fernando Poe Jr. in entering politics. (PDI, 12/15/04) I mean, give the man a break. He did not dignify media when they questioned his motives in running then, why press the issue now when obviously he can no longer answer it for himself?

Some people just can't seem to take it in their hearts that someone less educated than they are can muster enough courage to stand up to an even more corrupt government than the one it replaced. And equally noteworthy is that this man waged his fight in an election—not in a place that had earned a barbaric reputation for civil disobedience under the guise of Edsa People Power.

Come to think of it, David has always been supportive of the Arroyo administration from its infancy. I have read how she loathed the excesses of the previous administration, but I don't see the same disgust with the current regime, which does nothing to alleviate the living conditions of our poor. Maybe she should go out more often to the slums where FPJ once roamed, and it may help her to understand why this man chose to enter politics.

If her definition of a tragic politician is one who failed to enforce his vision of a good, happy and healthy nation—then by all means she is correct, FPJ is indeed one.

—REX PALOMA,
arvinus.rex@gmail.com

InqBox

Win this *Inquirer T-shirt!

Question of the Week

The recent earthquake and tsunami that resulted in over 100,000 deaths and injuries to countless others make me feel that life is____________.

Senders of d first 10 texts publishd in Tuesday's InqBox wiL each receiv an *Inquirer T-shirt!

inquirer news name/city/message.

(Maximum of 160 characters)

*Metro Manila winners can call Chay at 8978808 loc. 218. Provincial winners can text: inquirer ad name/city/mailing address to 2207 or 283 as their prizes will be mailed to them.

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph

INQUIRER Northern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Rolando B. Fernandez

A year of violence, diseases and upsets

By the PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

THE YEAR 2004 saw violence escalating in several areas in Northern Luzon, with two incumbent mayors in Ilocos Norte, a former mayor in Pangasinan, political supporters in Abra and Isabela, and reporters in Ilocos Norte and Kalinga among the victims.

YEARENDER

Diseases also stalked the region as Pangasinan suffered the brunt of gastroenteritis and cholera outbreaks, while Baguio City reeled from cases of meningococcemia, a fatal form of meningitis, which peaked in December.

The May 10 elections saw a David toppling a political Goliath in Isabela, with the victory of a former broadcaster over the acknowledged leader of the Dy political clan that ruled Isabela for 40 years.

Killings

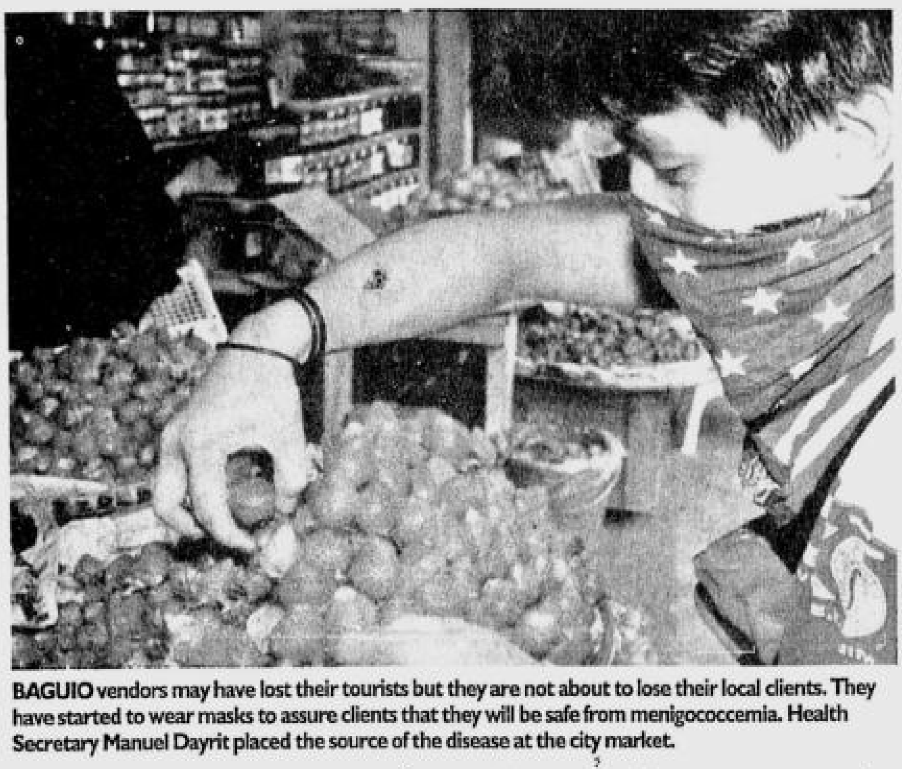
Fear gripped Ilocos Norte residents following a rash of killings that began with the murder of radioman Roger Mariano on July 30. Mariano was the first community journalist felled by assassins' bullets in what was believed to be a work-related attack.

His death sent a chilling effect to community journalists, particularly among radio commentators whose stinging remarks had peeved politicians and influential personalities in the province.

Three months later, the province's peace and order record was smeared with the murder of Vintar Mayor Eleuterio Mabanag on Oct. 30. Mabanag was gunned down in his town while he was jogging. Police described the killing as politically motivated.

Two weeks later, on Nov. 16, Marcos Mayor Rogelio Pambid was killed by what appeared to be hired guns similar to the deaths of Mariano and Mabanag.

The pattern of killing since Mariano's death led police to track down suspected hired guns operating in Ilocos Norte and other provinces in the Ilocos region.



BAGUIO vendors may have lost their tourists but they are not about to lose their local clients. They have started to wear masks to assure clients that they will be safe from menigococcemia. Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit placed the source of the disease at the city market.

EV ESPIRITU

Two days after Pambid's murder, police arrested SPO4 Apolonio Medrano, an intelligence officer assigned to the Cordillera police, and tagged him as the supposed leader of guns-for-hire in Ilocos Norte. Medrano was also identified as behind the killing of Mariano and the two mayors.

In Kalinga, Stephen Omaois, a reporter for a Kalinga-based newspaper, was found dead on Dec. 1 in the capital town of Tabuk after he was reported missing for five days. Omaois' body bore torture marks.

In Pangasinan, former Mayor Conrado Rodrigo of San Nicolas town was shot dead.

Cholera, gastro, meningo

From May to September, 13,682 people from the Ilocos region were afflicted with acute gastroenteristis, while 619 people were afflicted with cholera.

Sixty-two died of cholera—55 from Pangasinan and seven from La Union. Pangasinan was the hardest hit with 8,819 acute gastroenteritis cases and 464 people afflicted with cholera.

The epidemic brought out the need for clean water sources, and local officials were asked to focus on providing safe drinking water for their constituents.

In Baguio City, a bacterial disease associated with the cold weather, meningococcemia, struck and caused a tourist threat unlike any other.

The Department of Health said 20 people died from the disease from March to December and the number of cases was expected to rise while the cold weather chilled the city. Tourist arrivals in the summer capital dropped in December due to the scare generated by reports of the disease.

Abra's private armies

The influence and power of private armies maintained by Abra politicians was exposed. After a three-part series on Abra's private armies ran in the INQUIRER in September, police focused on crushing the private armies and restoring peace and order in the province.

Local politicians surrendered some of their firearms to police, but the New People's Army and some officials in Abra believed that despite these efforts, the police drive against the armed groups had failed.

Fall of the 'DYnasty'

Former broadcaster Maria Gracia Cielo Padaca, who is suffering from polio, won as governor of Isabela in one of the biggest political upsets in the May 2004 elections. Padaca crushed Gov. Faustino Dy Jr. by a 44,000-vote margin.

Counting at the provincial capitol was stopped several times amid protests and counter-protests between the Dy and Padaca camps.

Padaca's proclamation, however, was delayed after Dy accused her of conniving with the leftist groups. Dy brought the case to the Supreme Court.

Other members of the Dy family won in other political posts in the province. Dy Jr.'s brothers—Caesar, Faustino III and Napoleon—won as Cauayan City mayor, third district representative, and Alicia mayor, respectively.

In Baguio, 77-year-old Braulio Yaranon won over longtime politician Bernardo Vergara as mayor in one of the most hailed upsets, where the election was won on issues like corruption and patronage politics.

Blast victims

Rex Reynaldo Ferrer, 20, a waiter, was the lone Filipino fatality in a bomb blast in Madrid, Spain, on March 11. His remains were brought home and buried in Santiago City.

Raul Carlo Flores, a civil engineering consultant of the United States-based General Electric Co., was killed by a car bomb in Iraq on June 14. Flores, a native of San Fernando City in La Union, was buried in La Union in July.

Typhoons

Typhoon "Igme" in July and successive Typhoons "Unding," "Violeta" and "Yoyong," and Tropical Depression "Winnie" destroyed corn, rice and vegetable farms in Isabela, Cagayan, Nueva Vizcaya and the Cordillera. Heavy rains accompanying these typhoons submerged low-lying villages and destroyed infrastructures.

Earlier, in the last week of January, squalls or wind-driven waves hit fleets of fishing boats in the waters of La Union and Ilocos Sur, leaving at least eight people dead and 20 others missing. More than 100 fishermen earlier reported missing were able to return to their families.

Town halls burned

YARANON

PADACA

The municipal halls of San Mariano and Jones in Isabela were separately burned by suspected communist guerrillas as votes were being canvassed following the May 10 elections.

Radio stations closed

Radio stations dzNC-AM Bombo Radyo and its sister station, dwIT-Star FM, in Cauayan City were closed for the alleged failure of their officials to submit land conversion papers. The case is pending before the regional trial court.

PMA in spotlight

The Philippine Military Academy was back in the spotlight after 2003's failed Oakwood mutiny.

The undeclared of wealth of Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia, former Armed Forces comptroller and a member of PMA Class 1971, prompted text messages about military corruption and for another meaning for PMA—"Philippine Millionaires' Academy."

The valedictorian of Class 2004 was accused of shoplifting in the United States where he was undergoing advanced studies. Another alumnus, an Army major, was accused of sexually harassing military recruits in Tarlac.

Mining

The year saw the revival of an Australian mining firm's bid to conduct large-scale mining for gold and copper in remote Didipio village in Kasibu, Nueva Vizcaya, which had been pending for the past nine years.

Climax Arimco Mining Corp. and the Mines and Geosciences Bureau throughout the year launched a massive information campaign in 30 villages in Kasibu, and lobbied for endorsement from local officials.

Environment groups, however, claimed that the government's issuance of an environment compliance certificate (ECC) and other requirements was irregular, as the project had not acquired the "free, prior and informed consent" from the tribal communities.

Lady of Piat

The month long celebration of the quadricentennial of the arrival of the miraculous image of the Our Lady of Piat in Cagayan attracted at least 60,000 tourists to the province in June. *Cristina Arzadon, Estanislao Caldez, Frank Cimatu, Melvin Gascon, Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes and Villamor Visaya Jr.*

2005 can be a 'make or break' year for GMA

By Tonette Orejas
City of San Fernando

THE OUTLOOK for 2005 is largely bleak and hopes for progress are pinned on fiscal reforms, anti-corruption drive and values renewal.

OUTLOOK

"The economic prospects for 2005 will be better than 2004 provided we are able to take bold steps in addressing the country's budget deficit," said Sen. Francis Pangilinan.

The cue phrase in the country's rise or fall, he said, was sharing the burden of fiscal woes.

"Lawmakers must pass key revenue measures, the executive department must curb smuggling and raise tax collection and the private sector must pay the right amount of taxes for this to be achieved," Pangilinan said.

The year 2005, said Tarlac Rep. Jesli Lapus, could be a "make or break" year for the Arroyo administration.

"The solutions to the fiscal crisis will squarely move from legislation to management to implementation by the executive," said the chair of the House ways and means committee.

The 5.9-percent growth in 2004, plus eight more tax measures in the first quarter of 2005, will convince credit rating agencies that the government can address the fiscal problem, Edgardo Pamintuan, presidential adviser for external affairs, said.

What will add in making a difference next year will be in how private businesses will filter down more of their income to the masses, he said.

University of the Philippines professor Roland Simbulan and child rights advocate Fr. Shay Cullen both see a grim scenario under globalization or government policies that allow more foreign capital or hold on business, market and labor.

Simbulan said these would mean more impoverishment, while Cullen said these would translate to growing social unrest.

High hopes

Pampanga businessman Levy Laus has high hopes. "2005 looks definitely better and more predictable considering the absence of uncertainties and major impediments that would possibly alter the expected economic growth," he said.

Laus said these were due to increasing political stability and business confidence, as well as the government's effective ways in addressing the fiscal deficit. "These will prime a strong rebound," he said.

National leadership will matter most, said San Fernando Mayor Oscar Rodriguez. "I see an improvement of the present, given the fact that President Macapagal-Arroyo can now make bold and necessary decisions for the country," he said.

Subic and Clark, and their potentials for investments and creation of jobs for the communities continue to stir hope in local officials.

Labor leader Primo Amparo of the Manggagawa para sa Kalayaan ng Bayan said the only way to go was for the government to initiate genuine land reform and "nationalist industrialization" with real bias for farmers and workers.

"Unless there's a change in framework, the recovery will be superficial, diminished even by the deepening crisis," he said.

The Year of the Rooster, under the Chinese calendar, augurs well for 2005, according to businesswoman Malou Garbes.

"Like the rooster that has a peculiar way of picking its food one after the other, our country can pick up the bits and pieces of what is left and start to recover," she said.

Greenpeace Asia campaigner Von Hernandez said 2005 would be shaping up as a nightmare for the environment. "The Supreme Court's decision on mining and the government's patent inability to demand accountability from abusive corporations spell ecological suicide," he said.

American Bruce Oliver of the Zambales-based Environmental Protection of Asia sees 2005 as a year of greater environmental awareness on the heels of a series of ecological disasters.

"We must strive to better understand the forces of nature, how they affect us and, in turn, how we affect them," Oliver said.

Cielo Macapagal-Salgado, the President's sister, said she saw no progress unless government officials and the people start "praying, humbling ourselves, and changing our ways."

To "jueteng" collector Lito, every thing else about 2005 should mean decent jobs for "ordinary people who make do with less and less each year."

BMW Certified Pre-Owned

Sometimes brand is more important than new.

Only a BMW provides pure driving pleasure. And only **BMW Certified Pre-Owned** cars guarantee the same reliability and driving pleasure as a new one because they pass through a strict selection process. Each **BMW Certified Pre-Owned** car listed :

- Is no more than 6 years old with a mileage of less than 120,000 kilometers
- Has been examined to have no history of any major accident
- Passed through a comprehensive 100-point checklist
- Is guaranteed to have only genuine BMW parts
- Has a full 12-month or 20,000 kilometer warranty

Enjoy discounts and rebates at premium establishments as a Prestige Club BMW member.

Prestige Cars BMW (Makati) 2324 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City
CPO Direct Line (02) 812 7950 **Trunkline** (02) 892 8127 to 29

Prestige Cars BMW

Sheer Driving Pleasure

The ultimate drive may be driven away.
Experience it at **Prestige Cars BMW**.

BMW Certified Pre-Owned:

BMW 735 Li
2004 Sterling Gray,
2,651km
P6,500,000

BMW X5 3.0d Exec.
2004 Black Sapphire,
3,491km, P5,100,000

BMW X3 3.0i Exec.
2004 Titanium Silver,
5,997km, P3,860,000

BMW 530d Exec.
2004 Black Sapphire,
1,120km, P4,650,000

BMW 530d Exec.
2004 Titanium Silver,
2,005km, P4,200, 000

BMW 325i Exec.
2004 Titanium Silver,
15,035km, P2,500,000

BMW 318i M Sport
2004 Titanium Silver,
4,971km, P2,300,000

BMW 318i Exec.
2004 Steel Gray,
8,410km, P2,200,000

BMW 318i Exec.
2004 Black Sapphire,
5,321km, P2,200,000

BMW 318i Exec.
2004 Titanium Silver,
11,623km, P2,050,000

BMW 318i Exec.
2004 Orient Blue,
12,633km, P2,050,000

BMW 318i Exec.
2004 Orient Blue,
8,985km, P2,050,000

BMW 318i M Sport
2003 Topaz Blue,
3,226km, P1,975,000

BMW 318i
2000 Fern Green,
18,071km, P1,250,000

BMW 316i
2004 Titanium Silver,
9,222km, P1,450,000

BMW 316i
2003 Titanium Silver,
18,296km, P1,350,000

Other cars available:

BMW 523i
1997 Aspen Silver,
62,253km, P1,300,000

BMW 525iA
1991 Calypso Red,
43,046km, P480,000

BMW 320iA
1998 Calypso Red,
89,216km, P750,000

BMW 320iA
1997 Calypso Red,
31,005km, P720,000

BMW 320iA
1997 Calypso Red,
67,996km, P720,000

BMW 320iA
1997 Arktis Silver,
69,548km, P720,000

BMW 320iA
1997 Cosmos Black,
134,362km, P690,000

BMW 316i
1997 Cosmos Black,
64,763km, P620,000

BMW 316i
1996 Cosmos Black,
39,003km, P600,000

BMW 316i
1996 Alpine White,
101,173km, P500,000

A16

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2005

NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City
Tel. No. (074)443-9255
Fax No. (074)443-8971
E-mail: inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU
23 Aurora St., Old Albay District
Legazpi City
Tel. No. (052) 820-8402
Fax No. (052) 820-1274
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph

Across the NATION

Text us your feedback: inquirer atn name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

VISAYAS BUREAU
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: inq_cebu@inquirer.com.ph

MINDANAO BUREAU
FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Ma-a Road, Davao City
Tel. No. (082)244-1770 to 71
Fax No. (082)244-1771
E-mail: inq_davao@inquirer.com.ph

Chavit pet tiger alarms young scion of Cebu clan

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr. and Connie E. Fernandez
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—An eight-year-old scion of the prominent Lhuillier family based in Cebu was hurt after she got scared by a pet tiger of Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson in Boracay last week.

Sabrina Darza suffered a cut in the forehead after she fell down and hit her head on a pavement last Thursday at the Le Soleil de Boracay Hotel at Station 2 in Barangay Balabag.

She was taken to the Boracay Municipal Hospital and was released after her wound was treated, said SPO1 Nick Cogolio, citing a report of the Boracay Special Protection Unit (BSPU).

The girl was vacationing with her parents at the posh Mediterranean-style hotel owned by PJ Lhuillier, a cousin of Sabrina's father, Christopher Darza.

Christopher, 34, described the incident as "minor" but some rumors had bloated it out of proportion.

"No, she was not attacked. She is fine. No, she was not traumatized," he said, adding that the girl even felt bad that the tiger was put back in its cage.

Christopher told the INQUIRER in a phone interview that Singson had also apologized for the incident and everything was settled.

"There is no lawsuit, no anger, no nothing," he added.

Cogolio said the girl was on her way to the pool when she accidentally met the tiger, which was being led on a leash by its handler, Philip Demalabi, 23.

Jimmy Coscolluela, resident manager of the hotel, said the girl, who was alone, apparently got surprised after she encountered the tiger as she turned at a corner near the lobby. The girl screamed and crouched.

He said the tiger was apparently also surprised and "placed its paws" around the girl. The girl probably fell and hit her head because of the weight of the tiger that was three times her size, said Coscolluela.

"It was an accident which nobody wanted to happen," Coscolluela told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview. He said the incident was already "settled" between the governor and the girl's parents.

Asked why the tiger was being walked around the hotel compound, Christopher replied: "I don't really know."

Singson, who stayed at the hotel for four days as a guest of the Lhuilliers, was not around when it happened.

The governor, who regularly visits the island-resort, usually keeps his pet at his private yacht anchored near the shoreline, said Coscolluela.

GMA angered by Mansion graft report, dismisses 2 caretakers

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Nestor Banagan and his wife, Elisa, have kept house for President Macapagal-Arroyo and First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo at the family's cottage on Leonard Wood Road here for the last 10 years.

But this week, they are moving out of the First Family's Baguio home like prodigal children.

The couple resigned from the President's employ on Monday, after Ms Arroyo chastised them on New Year's Eve for leaking out their graft complaint against officials of the presidential Mansion.

Ms Arroyo spent her Christmas holidays here after a year's absence, only to face a six-month-old quarrel among her household staffers involving evidence of payroll padding, nepotism and fraud at the Mansion, the President's official home here.

Mansion sources said many of the staff members have since retracted their accusations, and an angry Ms Arroyo reprimanded the Banagan couple for allowing the INQUIRER access into the squabble.

"She told us, 'Talking to the media is a mortal sin,' and she warned us that other presidential staffers lost their jobs for leaking information (to the press). She was fed false information (that we were the sources of the leak)," Banagan said.

The couple sent their resignations to the First Family through Ms Arroyo's daughter, Evangelina Lourdes or "Luli," on Sunday (Jan. 2), but copies were also sent to Malacañang on Monday.

Their one-page resignation letters dated Jan. 1 and a companion letter, dated Dec. 31, 2004, were written in Filipino. The letters offered the President some of their reasons for talking about the scandal.

"Mayroong panahon na ang lahat ay maaring mawala dahil sa paninindigan sa katotohanan at katwiran. Kung ito po ang panahong iyon, amin itong tatanggapin upang ang huling bagay na maaring matira sa amin—ang aming karangalan at dignidad bilang tao at anak ng Diyos, at bilang mga Pilipino—ay mapanatili namin sa aming kaabaan.

(There are times when you lose everything when you stand by the truth and reason. If this is one such moment, we gladly accept the consequence so that our integrity and dignity as men and children of God, and as Filipinos, will be the last things we keep in our most humble moments)," the couple said.

The Banagans said they never intended to target the First Family when they complained to Malacañang about the anomalies at the Mansion.

"They have been very kind to us throughout the 10 years (that we served them)," Banagan said in Filipino.

He said Mr. Arroyo, whose family owns the Leonard Wood property, allowed them in 1994 to stay in the house, which was left in disrepair.

It was a mutually beneficial arrangement because the Banagans eventually assumed all of the house bills. They were later displaced to a smaller unit, which the Arroyos built for them when they renovated the house in 2003.

"But by 2003, (Malacañang officials) have taken over the house. We no longer had the run of the (Arroyo) home. And it was a different (Ms Arroyo) who confronted us. She told me (an Arroyo confidante) had wanted us out of (Mr. Arroyo's) home because we entered their home without permission and we didn't keep the house clean," Banagan's wife Elisa said on Monday.

TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

COUPLE Nestor and Elisa Banagan leaving the presidential Mansion for good.

Execs, Church leaders urge total log ban in Quezon

LUCENA CITY—Quezon provincial officials and Catholic Church leaders in the heavily devastated northern part of the province called on the national government to implement a "total log ban" in Quezon in the wake of unprecedented calamities that struck the towns of Infanta, Real and General Nakar—all on the slopes of the Sierra Madre.

Quezon Rep. Rafael Nantes said he would personally appeal to his colleagues in Congress to permanently prohibit all forms of logging in the Sierra Madre.

"Sierra Madre should have a much-needed rest from man's continuous destruction. She's now fighting back, resulting in the loss of thousand of lives and billions (of pesos worth) of properties," Nantes said.

Provincial Board Member Kelly Portes also urged the national government to implement a total log ban.

"Our forests and countryside are already denuded of the much-needed trees," Portes told his colleagues in a privilege speech yesterday.

Portes said if Congress and the national government will settle for a selective ban on logging, "Quezon should be a part of the selected areas."

Former Infanta Bishop Julio Labayen on Monday said "the government should now seriously implement a total ban on all forms of logging, legal and illegal."

"We've been fighting for a total log ban for so long but no one cared to listen. Then here comes this tragedy."

Labayen urged government officials "to leave the politics of timber money behind" as he called on the country's leaders to continue to work for change in the nation's political consciousness.

"Without the interest of the poor and the suffering people, politics is a mere circus of the elite and the moneyed class," Labayen said.

Bishop Rolando Tria Tirona has also been calling on the national government to impose a total log ban in Sierra Madre. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Cops confirm arrest of 10 aliens for drug links

DAVAO CITY—The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) has confirmed the arrest of 10 Chinese nationals for their alleged connection with the owner of the shabu laboratory raided by authorities here on New Year's Eve.

But Supt. Wilkins Villanueva, PDEA regional director, refused to reveal the identities of the suspects due to objections from their Filipino lawyer over media exposure of her clients.

Villanueva, who earlier refused to confirm the arrest, said the 10 suspects were rounded up by the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation as their names surfaced when a certain Allan Sy was identified as the owner of the raided shabu laboratory which yielded 76 kilos of shabu amounting to P152 million.

Sy went into hiding after the raid and is still at large following the raid on the laboratory.

But his Filipino wife, Jed Pilapil, is now in the custody of the PDEA and is being investigated for possible involvement in the drug trade.

Armed with a search warrant, operatives of the PDEA, regional police office, and the police anti-drugs special task force swooped down on the place at around 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 31.

But the raiding team met stiff resistance from the people inside the building, prompting an exchange of gunfire.

Six "Oriental-looking" individuals, who were still unidentified as of press time, were killed.

Villanueva said the 10 Chinese nationals would be immediately deported after they have been investigated.

Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte, who is known for his tough stance against crime, said he would personally bury the slain suspects. *Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Execs rule out quarantine, immunization for meningo

BAGUIO CITY
TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

A BAGUIO market vendor protects herself from possible meningococcemia infection by wearing a face mask.

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—There is a vaccine, and the city government has been subsidizing antibiotic drugs for suspected carriers.

But government doctors dismissed proposals to close down Baguio schools and vaccinate schoolchildren against meningococcemia, a fatal strain of meningitis that has killed 10 children between March and December last year.

The last known child to fall to meningococcemia was the two-year-old daughter of a Baguio City public market vendor who died on Dec. 31.

Benedicto Alhambra, acting city administrator, said immunizing the whole population, beginning with 18 supposedly contaminated barangays, was also out of the question.

Residents panicked when television news reports discussed the quarantine of barangays where the meningococcemia fatalities lived.

Requests had been reaching city officials since Sunday to suspend classes here until authorities could guarantee their safety.

In fact, some city officials were poised to do just that after New Year's Day.

But on Monday, a general assembly of school officials concluded that "the safety of the children can be best guaranteed when they are all in school," an official said.

Parents seemed to have accepted the decision. Arturo Aguilar, a Baguio resident, allowed his three-year-old daughter to attend nursery school on Tuesday, but had been vigilant about allowing her access to crowded areas like malls.

"All we need to do is start a cleanup drive, and help subsidize their vitamin intake to build up their stamina because this disease cannot affect healthy children," said a high school principal here.

Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit also rejected a mass immunization proposal, saying it was not necessary.

Children of meningococcemia fatalities had a hard time reintegrating into classes because of the scare, a school official said.

"The decision to keep children in school partly addresses this impression because no single child is isolated, and adults know where they are at every hour of the day," she said.

The Department of Health said the particular meningococcemia serogroup (type), which had afflicted at least five of the recent fatalities, was curable. Only five of the 40 suspected meningococcemia cases documented between March and December 2004 tested positive for meningococcemia based on laboratory examination.

To assure residents that their children were safe in school, Mayor Braulio Yaranon was issuing meningococcemia protocols that would involve the community in containing and preventing the resurgence of the disease, Alhambra said.

He said the protocols would also address other kinds of diseases, including the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS).

A key element of the protocols is a full disclosure agreement with barangay officials to help them place affected families under strict surveillance, he said.

"This is a more practical measure compared to the quarantine of villages," he said. *With a report from EV Espiritu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

METRO

E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Ester G. Dipasupil ■ Assistant Editor Cenon B. Bibe

EZ2	SUERTRES	SIX DIGIT	6/42 Luzon/Vis-Min	SWEEPSTAKES
20 3	2 9 0	9 6 3 4 9 3	7 13 16 20 22 25	4 0 6 3 2 5 C

(In exact order)

Text us your feedback: inquirer met name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Tax hikes irk folk in Manila and Caloocan

By Tarra V. Quismundo and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

TAXPAYERS in Manila and Caloocan are feeling the heat.

Despite the cool environment inside the airconditioned taxpayer's lounge of the Manila City Hall, many real property owners were feeling the heat of having to pay higher taxes.

"I learned about the adjustment today when I came, and they said the increase would be a hundred percent," said Alicia Herrera, a Tondo resident.

Herrera, 46, came to City Hall yesterday to pay for her family's 60-sqm house and lot, where she had been living since birth.

Late last year, the City Council amended Manila's revenue code and doubled the appraisal value of commercial and residential real property in the city.

The amendment was aimed at raising real property value in Manila to levels comparable to those of other cities in the metropolis.

A real estate division officer said City Hall disseminated information on the tax adjustment, and even obliged barangay officials to inform their constituents.

After the tax adjustment, Clarita Ramos, a San Andres Bukid homeowner, will have to pay P800 more from previous years.

"Last year, I only paid P1,500. Now my tax computation is P2,388," said Ramos, who was paying for her father's 250-sqm land, which has been valued at P119,400.

She thus decided to postpone payment because she did not have enough money yesterday.

Ramos, as well as other taxpayers in Manila, has until the end of the month to pay their dues.

In the midst of angry taxpayers, real property tax division officers kept their cool.

"We are used to this," said the real estate official, who requested anonymity in deference to her superiors.

For the whole of January, some 100 employees would be working from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and would be sacrificing their weekends to process tax payments.

Officials expect some 100,000 property owners to troop to City Hall to pay taxes for their house and lots, buildings, or machinery.

Manila aims to collect P2.2 billion from real property owners.

Accepting reality, Herrera tried to console herself by focusing on the perks of dutifully paying her tax.

"Good thing there was free coffee and iced tea," she said.

In Caloocan, officials expect businessmen seeking permits to frown at higher fees they would have to pay starting this year.

But at least frowning won't take that long.

Melanie Malaya, chief of Caloocan's Business Permits and License Office, said processing of permits would just take an hour or two with the opening of their one-stop shop.

The process would also be computerized, Malaya said.

In a statement, the city asked business owners to start settling their obligations and renew their business permits before Jan. 20 to avoid fines and surcharges.

Those who will pay the full year's fees on time will enjoy a 10 percent discount.

MMDA says bus scheme to save ₱400M

By Margaux C. Ortiz

BUS OPERATORS will be able to save from P300 million to P400 million with the re-implementation of the Organized Bus Route (OBR) scheme on Edsa, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) said.

MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando said the savings would be in fuel and operating costs.

The OBR aims to limit the number of buses on Edsa through a single dispatch system.

"Fewer buses on Edsa means more passengers and a higher income," Fernando told reporters yesterday.

"Systematic dispatching maximizes their load and earnings," he said, adding that excess buses on Edsa cause traffic jams.

Fernando said the OBR scheme would be implemented before the end of the month with the completion of the terminals and road furniture needed for the project.

MMDA Traffic Operations Center Executive Director Angelito Vergel de Dios said the agency already started partial implementation of the scheme in the northern part of Metro Manila during the Christmas season.

"We could not fully implement the scheme because the terminal in Fairview was still incomplete," Vergel de Dios said in an interview, adding that Robinson's Mall had taken responsibility for the construction of the terminal.

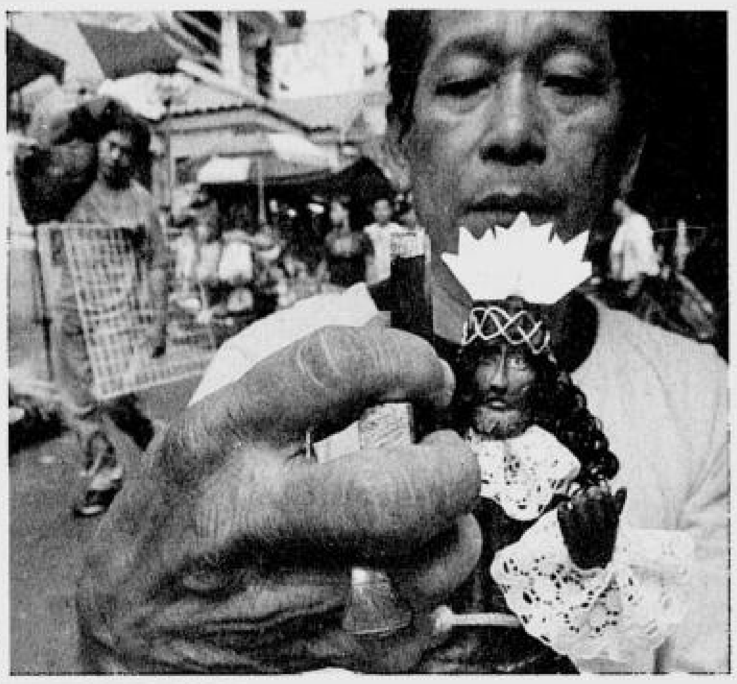
Vergel de Dios also said the queue cards, an important feature of the scheme, had yet to be delivered.

Once the scheme has been fully implemented, Vergel de Dios said violators would be severely penalized to ensure its success.

He said traffic enforcers would confiscate the licenses of drivers who fail to return any of the 6,000 queue cards and impound their bus.

Vergel de Dios also said they fine-tuned some features of the scheme for the convenience of the bus drivers.

Queue cards will now be used to make sure that the buses wait for their turn at the terminals.



READY FOR FEAST ERIC ARAZAS

Quiapo vendor Eddie Feliciano prepares an image of the Black Nazarene, whose feast will be celebrated on Sunday.

Death comes for 2 at wake in Tondo

By Leila B. Salaverria

A MASKED man sent mourners at the Baseco Compound in Tondo, Manila, scrambling for cover when he shot dead one of the wake's hosts early yesterday morning.

But a Mandaluyong policeman who was a visitor at the wake quickly came to the rescue and fired at the gunman, killing the latter in the process.

PO1 Alvin Perlas of the Mandaluyong police mobile patrol unit and a Baseco Compound resident said he was surprised to find out after he removed the gunman's mask that the latter was his neighbor Jerry Morales.

Morales had first taken a shot at Juanito Gad, whose family was holding a wake for his aunt, Pacita Bachao, at the Baseco Compound when the incident took place.

Gad and Perlas were seated at separate tables and playing card games when a masked man approached Gad and pumped two bullets in his chest.

No choice

Perlas then identified himself as a policeman and asked the gunman to drop his gun.

However, the masked man pointed his gun at other mourners and aimed it at the policeman.

Perlas said he had no choice but to shoot the gunman in an attempt to disable him. The gunman was hit on the chest and left thigh and died on the spot.

"*Kasama ko pa siya magbasketball dati* (I used to play basketball with him)," the policeman said, referring to his dead neighbor.

He said he could not think of any reason why Morales killed Gad.

2 robbers in shootout with Pasig City police

By Luige A. del Puerto

TWO SUSPECTED robbers commandeered two cars, including that of a police general, after shooting it out with police and later losing themselves in the crowd yesterday morning in a busy district in Pasig City.

"A bloodied white polo shirt was left in the general's car. The shirt had what looked like two bullet holes," Senior Insp. Alfredo Paneda, Eastern Police District's chief investigator, said.

One suspect had stopped the car of a Gen. Merio Medios, reportedly of the Communications and Electronics unit of the Philippine National Police, with his son Melvin on board. The general's driver, PO1 Sandro Llacuna stayed on to drive for the suspect, while Melvin was told to get out of the car. The suspect later got off close to the Katipunan flyover.

The other suspect forcibly took over a taxi cab and then alighted at Meralco Avenue. But before escaping, the suspects shot it out with police on Green Meadows corner Ortigas Avenue.

Policemen had been posted in the area after two robbers staged a heist at about the same time Monday. Eight passengers lost their mobile phones and other belongings in the incident.

Policemen assigned to the area after the Monday incident spotted the suspects yesterday with guns tucked in their waists as they got off a taxi on Ortigas Avenue and promptly gave chase.

3 suspects nabbed for trader's slay

By Tina G. Santos

THE CENTRAL Police District (CPD) yesterday said they were a step closer to solving the murder of businesswoman Ruditha Sanchez, 40, who was found dead inside her home in Quezon City Sunday night, following the arrest of three other suspects.

Chief Insp. Rodolfo Jaraza, chief of the District Police Investigation Unit (DPIU) of the Central Police District Office (CPDO), identified the three as Crisanto Estorgio, 25, of Puno Street, Sitio San Roque, Agham Road, Barangay Bagong Pag-asa; and Jimmy Suello, 29, and Allan Bautista, 28, both of Recto Street, Faustina Subdivision, Barangay San Bartolome, Novaliches.

On Monday, police arrested Bryan Bautista, 19, and Rolando Centino, 26, at their safehouse in Malinta, Valenzuela, during a follow-up operation.

Jaraza said they learned about the identities of Estorgio, Suello and Allan Bautista from Bryan Bautista and Centino. With the help of an informant, police found Estorgio, who later disclosed the whereabouts of Suello and Allan Bautista.

They were arrested as they were about to leave for Bohol.

According to Lauriano Sanchez, husband of the slain victim, Suello and Allan Bautista had been their workers for years until they were fired late last year after they were caught stealing money. The victim's family has a grocery and is also engaged in the school supplies and engraving businesses.

Bryan Bautista had been the victim's houseboy for four months, while Centino was hired a month ago. Estorgio, on the other hand, never worked for the couple but admitted that he had long known the other suspects.

The victim was found dead with a slit throat and multiple stab wounds in different parts of the body inside her house on Ijan Subdivision, Barangay San Bartolome, Novaliches. Her body was discovered by her husband shortly before Sunday midnight.

Valuable items such as jewelry and cash amounting to P100,000 were missing, police said.

Sanchez was alone in the house when the incident happened, and was sleeping in the living room when the suspects came upon her. Sanchez' husband and the couple's children had taken their relatives home after spending the New Year with them.

Jaraza said the suspects are facing charges of robbery with homicide. *With Arlene A. Ferrer, trainee*

UPHS reunion

THE UP High School Class of 1970 will hold its 35th anniversary reunion on Jan 8-9. Hosted by Ryan Cayabyab at No. 15 Mt. Fuji St., Filinvest I, Batasan Hills, Quezon City, the reunion will have as its theme, "The Way We Were… in High School. A rejuvenating blast to the past." Attendees are requested to bring their high school photos. Registration starts at 10 a.m., Jan. 8. For more information, please contact Teresa Samson (0917-8303513), Cholo Geotina (0920-5375161) or Margot Andolong (0916-7822617).

Hijackers drive off with ₱7M

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

A COMPANY lost equipment worth P7 million after its truck was reportedly hijacked in Malabon City the other morning.

Richard Eson, 28, told the police that he was driving a truck of Multi Crafts Industries Corp. at about 3 a.m. on Letre Road when about seven men armed with M-16 rifles flagged him down.

The men then ordered him to get out of the truck and pushed him inside an L-300 van as the other suspects took over the truck, where the company's "vertical machine" was loaded, Eson also told the police.

SPO1 Ferdinand Espiritu said the machine was used in processing metals.

Eson said the men left him on MacArthur Highway in Barangay Potrero.

Luxury car in Coke office heist found

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

POLICE recovered yesterday in Caloocan City a luxury car believed to have been used by robbers who struck at a Coca-Cola Sales Office in Manila City on New Year's Day.

The vehicle, a Nissan Patrol, was taken from its driver on Dec. 30 in front of the Westin Philippine Plaza in Pasay City.

While the owner got back his car, the bottling company lost more than P1 million to the robbers,, PO3 Raymond Mendoza of the Caloocan City police said.

The robbery was perpetrated by a group of about 10 men, some wearing police uniforms, armed with rifles and pistols, police said.

At 3:20 p.m. on Jan. 1, two men wearing police uniforms approached the security guard at the gate of the Coca-Cola and Cosmos Sales Office on North Bay Boulevard in Tondo, Manila.

The men told security guard Luisito Cabilos, 23, they received a complaint of indiscriminate firing inside the sales office compound.

After they were let in, the men disarmed Cabilos and tied his hands with packaging tape. The other robbers then barged into the security office and hogtied security supervisor Romar Ligutan, 31.

Ligutan told the INQUIRER that the robbers brought an acetylene tank and different types of cutters, which they used to open the vault of Coca-Cola.

The suspects then took the vault of Cosmos.

Because only the two guards were inside the compound on New Year's Day, the two-hour robbery went unnoticed.

At 8 a.m. the Nissan Patrol was abandoned in Langaray Street in Dagat-Dagatan, Caloocan City.

A resident got suspicious when the vehicle remained in front of his house for two days.

Police found the empty steel cash vault in the car.

The *Iglesia ni Cristo*
Executive Minister
Eraño G. Manalo
wishes to sincerely thank
all those who sent
their greetings and felicitations
on the occasion of his
80th Birth Anniversary
on January 2, 2005.

PLDT.
Buong Pilipinas.
Buo Ang Saya.

2004-2005 OLONGAPO / SUBIC TELEPHONE DIRECTORY
2004-2005 METRO MANILA TELEPHONE DIRECTORY
HOUSEHOLD & BUSINESS
YELLOW PAGES
2004-2005 METRO MANILA TELEPHONE DIRECTORY
GOVERNMENT / BUSINESS
WHITE PAGES
DPC
2004-2005 METRO MANILA TELEPHONE DIRECTORY
RESIDENTIAL LISTINGS
WHITE PAGES
2004-2005 NORTH LUZON TELEPHONE DIRECTORY
2004-2005 ZAMBOANGA TELEPHONE DIRECTORY
2003-2004 DAVAO TELEPHONE DIRECTORY
2004-2005 CEBU TELEPHONE DIRECTORY
2004-2005 SOUTH LUZON TELEPHONE DIRECTORY
2004-2005 PLDT-MARATEL TELEPHONE DIRECTORY
ILOILO / ROXAS TELEPHONE DIRECTORY
Telephone Directory

Walang Katapat.

Mas Lamang Ka Sa PLDT Sa Dami Ng Matatawagan. Mas Lalago Ang Negosyo Mo. Mas Maraming Value-Added Services.
Kaya, Saan Ka Man Sa Pilipinas, Mula Aparri Hanggang Jolo, Dito Ka Na Sa Pinakasulit!

PLDT

Iba Pa Rin Ang May PLDT Landline

Abangan!

Sangkatutak Na Saya Na May Kasunod Pa!

SPORTS

E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres

us your feedback: inquirer sprt name/ci to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

THINNING HAIR?
Call Svenson at 892-HAIR (4247)

GOOD enoughs are not good enough, says Chot Reyes, the man tasked with regaining RP basketball's old glory. PDI PHOTO

Taskmaster Reyes named RP five coach

'Disciplined' national pool formed at end of month

By Musong R. Castillo

CHOT Reyes, a man of fiery personality who threads no middle ground, was yesterday named coach of the national basketball team tasked not only to regain Asian glory but achieve global recognition as well.

The name of the 42-year-old Coca-Cola coach was announced by PBA commissioner Noli Eala. Reyes beat three other equally-capable candidates—Joel Banal of Talk 'N Text, Tim Cone of Alaska and Yeng Guiao of Red Bull Barako—for the post.

"*Nakaka-kilabot* (It's hair-raising)," Reyes said. "This is, more than anything else, a humbling experience, having gained the vote of confidence of the board (of governors) and the commissioner."

"We've set ourselves up for spectacular success, or a spectacular failure," Reyes later told reporters. "There's no middle ground here, because that's how I live my life."

Reyes was informed of the PBA's decision during practice yesterday with the Coke Tigers, who celebrated the appointment by dousing their coach with mineral water at the PhilSports Arena floor.

He will name the 18 pro players who will make up the pool before the end of the month. He also said six amateurs may be added to the list.

Pressed to name the five best players in the league today, Reyes picked Jayjay Helterbrand, Willie Miller, Tony dela Cruz, Nic Belasco and Eric Menk.

Eala made the announcement during the board of governors' first monthly meeting, writing *finis* to a race that had Banal competing toe-to-toe with Reyes.

"It was a tough decision," Eala said. "Coach Reyes was more knowledgeable of the international game and seemed a more ardent student of basketball."

Winner of championships with two teams in the PBA, Reyes revealed that the first order of the day is a talk with Coca-Cola management and to figure out what to do with the team, which he will leave before month's end.

Reyes believes that "good is the enemy of great"—the exact phrase he used to start his written program, forwarded as well by the three other candidates, to Eala.

"For so long, we have accepted the 'good enoughs,'" Reyes explained. "We should start opening our eyes to greatness and not be satisfied with what we have."

There were "three pillars" in the Reyes program—disciplined people, disciplined thought and disciplined action.

Reyes will now assume command of a four-year basketball program that starts with the Qatar ABC this year.

'Be prepared to do things you've never done before'

By Francis Ochoa

NOW comes the roll-up-your-sleeves part.

After getting the nod as the national coach of the country's flagship basketball program, Chot Reyes yesterday laid out the premise on which the ambitious Olympic bid will be anchored on.

"We should be willing to do things we've never done before," said the mercurial Coca-Cola mentor. "If we keep doing the things we did before, then we should expect the same results."

Already, the PBA is veering away from the traditional, preparing for a goal four years early instead of cramming for a competition in the year or a year before it is held. Also, the league is shifting its focus from the Asian Games to the ABC, which serves as a qualifier for the World Championships and the Olympics.

But Reyes wants to take things farther. "We must have a thorough immersion into the international game," he said. "And in picking players, talent should come with supreme discipline and no-nonsense commitment."

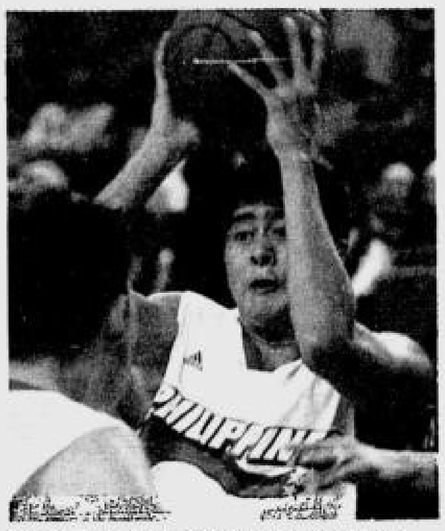
In the four years that he will try to steer the country hopefully towards an Olympic stint in 2008, Reyes will have at his disposal a decent P140-million budget to spend for training and preparation.

A bulk of the budget will be spent on international meets. Reyes' team will first see action in the Jones Cup in Chinese-Taipei. Or, if plans don't miscarry, in the ABC Champions Cup. The league also hopes to host pocket tournaments, with foreign teams invited to two- or three-day meets.

The team Reyes envisions will run the same system he implemented with the Tigers—small, quick and willing to collect as many floor burns and loose balls as baskets. And that's during practice.

"I think this country is the Coke of the Asian scene," said Reyes. "Coke is always outsized in the PBA and the Philippines will always be outsized in Asia."

Reyes thinks the country can regain its lofty status in Asian hoops: "But we have to start the hard, dirty work. And we have to start now."


KENNETH Duremdes was part of the last all-PBA team to represent the country. AFP

Lim's counsel not the DOJ, says Gonzalez

By Philip C. Tubeza

Presumptuous.

This was how Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez described the claim of the lawyer of the Basketball Association of the Philippines that BAP secretary general Graham Lim cannot be deported.

Gonzalez said he has reiterated his order for the Bureau of Immigration to deport Lim despite the claim of BAP legal counsel Bonifacio Alentajan that Lim is a Filipino.

"That is presumptous," Gonzalez said of Alentajan's assertion. "Mr. Alentajan is not the Department of Justice.

"The Bureau of Immigration is now proceeding with the process (for Lim's deportation)."

Gonzalez said former Immigration chief Andrea Domingo ordered Lim's deportation after finding that he is an illegal alien, but the decision was not carried out because the documents pertaining to his case disappeared.

Gonzalez said the documents reappeared after he threatened to file charges against the officials who misplaced Lim's papers.

"(Alentajan's) only argument now is where to deport him (Lim), but that is not our problem," the Justice secretary said. "If he has gone to several places around the world, he can always go back there, but he should be deported."

Gonzalez said Alentajan could go to the Court of Appeals but the DOJ would continue with the deportation proceedings unless the tribunal stopped it.

Alentajan on Monday said he was confident the case against Lim, filed by former BAP official Tito Tagle and international referee Liberato Valenzuela, will be dismissed after he presents Lim's case before the DOJ and the Bureau of Immigration.

According to Alentajan, Tagle and Valenzuela are pursuing the case after becoming casualties of a power struggle that rocked the BAP a few years ago.

Alentajan insisted that Lim's family has been in the country since 1875 and were made Filipino citizens by virtue of the 1902 Philippine bill and the 1916 Jones Law.

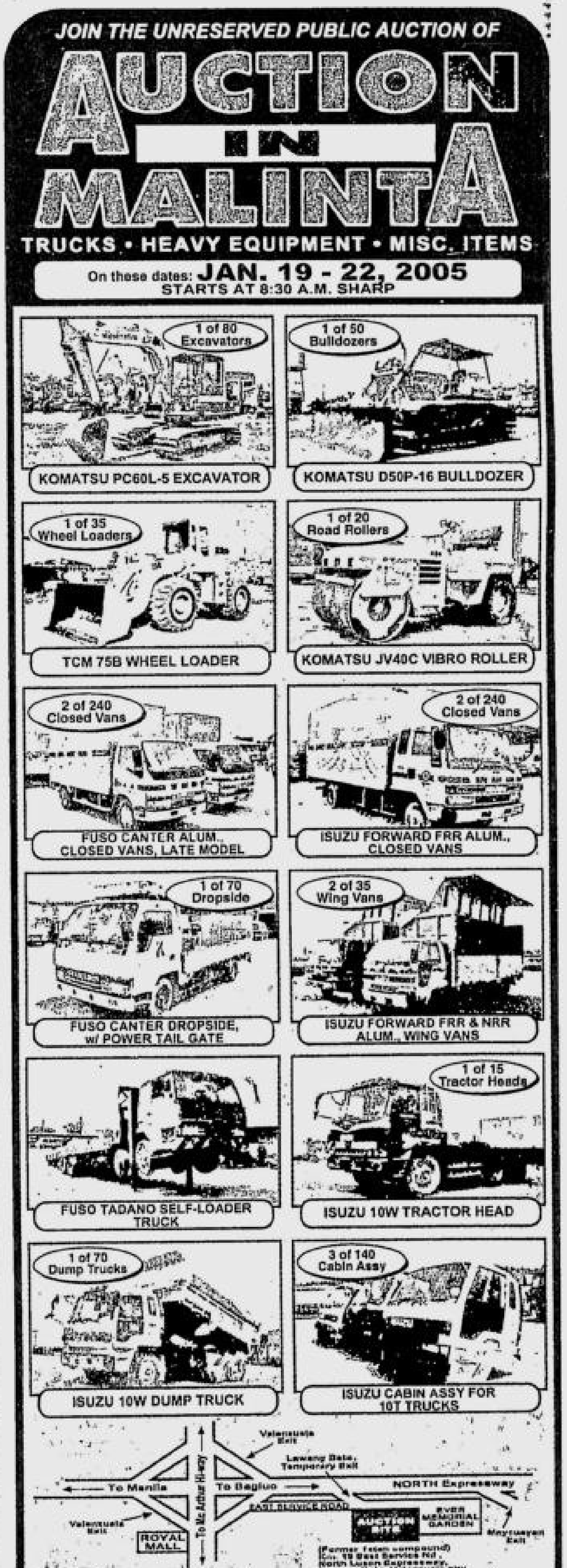
Paragua bungled his GM bid /A21

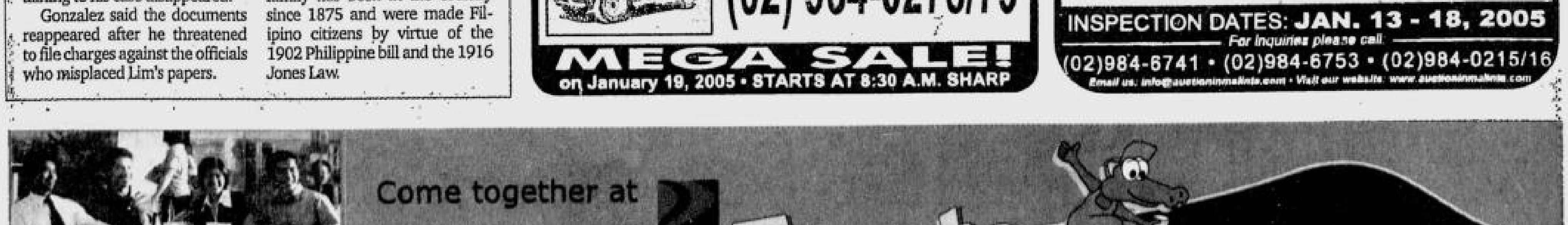
PBA TODAY

Philsports Arena
4:30 p.m.—Coca-Cola vs FedEx
7:30 p.m.—Sta. Lucia vs Alaska

CENTRO
MANUFACTURING CORPORATION
PASSENGER VAN BODY
The only ISO 9001:2000 Certified Truck Body Builder in the Philippines.
Available for
ISUZU (ELF) NKR/ NHR, MITSUBISHI CANTER KIA K2700 and other brands.
Call us at: Tel: 930-0971, 939-3710
Cell/ Text: (0917) 340-2217
REFRIGERATED VAN BODY
ALUMINUM VAN BODY
NHR PASSENGER BODY

MICROVAN
(02) 984-0278/79
MEGA SALE!
on January 19, 2005 • STARTS AT 8:30 A.M. SHARP


JOIN THE UNRESERVED PUBLIC AUCTION OF
AUCTION IN MALINTA
TRUCKS • HEAVY EQUIPMENT • MISC. ITEMS
On these dates: JAN. 19 - 22, 2005
STARTS AT 8:30 A.M. SHARP
INSPECTION DATES: JAN. 13 - 18, 2005
For inquiries please call
(02)984-6741 • (02)984-6753 • (02)984-0215/16
1 of 80 Excavators
KOMATSU PC60L-5 EXCAVATOR
1 of 50 Bulldozers
KOMATSU D50P-16 BULLDOZER
1 of 35 Wheel Loaders
TCM 75B WHEEL LOADER
1 of 20 Road Rollers
KOMATSU JV40C VIBRO ROLLER
2 of 240 Closed Vans
FUSO CANTER ALUM., CLOSED VANS, LATE MODEL
2 of 240 Closed Vans
ISUZU FORWARD FRR ALUM., CLOSED VANS
1 of 70 Dropside
FUSO CANTER DROPSIDE, w/ POWER TAIL GATE
2 of 35 Wing Vans
ISUZU FORWARD FRR & NRR ALUM., WING VANS
FUSO TADANO SELF-LOADER TRUCK
1 of 15 Tractor Heads
ISUZU 10W TRACTOR HEAD
1 of 70 Dump Trucks
ISUZU 10W DUMP TRUCK
3 of 140 Cabin Assy
ISUZU CABIN ASSY FOR 10T TRUCKS
Valenzuela Exit
Lawang Bato, Temporary Exit
To Manila
To Baguio
NORTH Expressway
To Mc Arthur Hi-way
EAST SERVICE ROAD
AUCTION SITE
EVER MEMORIAL GARDEN
Valenzuela Exit
ROYAL MALL
Meycauayan Exit


Come together at
PETRON
Treats
Everyone deserves a treat.

Arroyo okays tax shelter for SEA Games sponsors

By Marc Anthony Reyes

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday approved the granting of tax shelter to at least 10 private corporations which will sponsor the 2005 Southeast Asian Games, according to the Philippine SEAG Organizing Committee.

The President met with the Philsoc officials in Malacañang and gave her go-signal for them to negotiate with prospective sponsors on the condition their contributions don't exceed P1 billion, about the same amount as the projected Games budget.

THE PRESIDENT swears in the new set of POC officers led by Jose "Peping" Cojuangco at Malacañang. REM ZAMORA

During the meeting, the President also sworn in the new set of Philippine Olympic Committee officials led by former Tarlac congressman Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, who is also the Philsoc vice chair.

Cojuangco said the gesture would help solve the budget woes as the President showed her "support" to the Philsoc's efforts.

"The President talked to us not just about the 2005 SEAG but also on the future of RP sports," said Cojuangco. "It is clear that she wants a long-term plan for sports."

POC first vice president and Bacolod Rep. Monico Puentevella, one of the brains of the marketing scheme, said: "We expect the corporations to rush in, so we initially wanted to accommodate at least 10 corporations."

Puentevella said the marketing package has the blessings of the Bureau of Internal Revenue, Department of Finance and the Department of Budget and Management.

Aside from the tax exemptions and deductions—depending on the manner of their donation—the corporations can also enjoy advertisement tie-up with the 23rd SEA Games and be named as official sponsors of the 11-nation meet.

The mechanics of the sponsorship deal, according to Puentevella, will be discussed by the Philsoc and the top government financial institutions.

Montaña five routs Flight, gains semis

By Jasmine W. Payo

MONTAÑA Pawnshop bucked the absence of star player Alex Compton to overwhelm Air Philippines, 87-73, and nail an outright semifinal berth in the PBL Open championship yesterday at the Blue Eagle Gym in Loyola Heights.

"We're happy to be in the semis but we're not about to relax," said coach Robert Sison after the Jewels secured their first semifinals appearance in four conferences. "We still have to raise our game a notch higher."

The Jewels moved to the top spot with a 9-2 (win-loss) card. Defending champion Magnolia-FEU clinched the first outright semifinal berth with its 9-3 record.

In the second game, Ardy Larong shot a crucial three-pointer in the final two minutes to lift Granny Goose past AMP-Ateneo, 82-78, in double overtime.

Granny Goose ended its four-game losing spell to remain at third place at 7-5.

The scores:

First Game

MONTAÑA 87—Vergara 17, Salvador 12, Dela Cuesta 11, Capus 10, Guerrero 9, Mercado 8, Juntilla 8, Baguion 5, Espiritu 4, Magpayo 3, Tolentino 0, Baluyot 0, Junio 0.

AIR PHILIPPINES 73—Hubalde 18, Vizcarra 18, Alonzo 8, Aljamal 7, Gomez 6, Epondulan 4, Te 4, Joe 2, Pua 2, Holper 2, Garrido 2, Paterno 0.

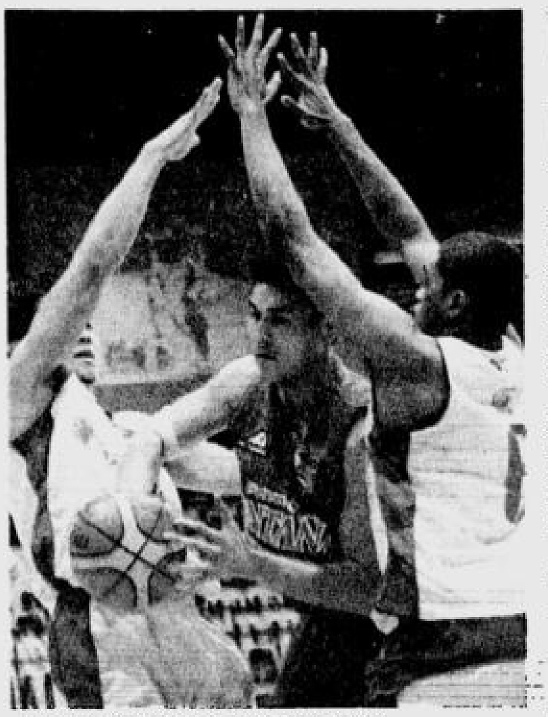
Quarters: 27-16, 45-21, 72-45, 87-73.

Second Game

GRANNY GOOSE 82—Lanete 17, Larong 14, Grijaldo 10; Quiñahan 8, Santos 8, Almeda 7, Ibañes 6, Cruz 4, Latonio 4; Cervantes 3; Capati 1, Concha 0.

AMP-ATENEO 78—Mesina 15, Espinas 14, Castro 11, Alfad 10, Tenorio 9, Oreta 8, Mendoza 6, Intal 5, Gatumbato 0, Kramer 0.

Quarters: 17-22, 43-34, 61-55, 69-69 (reg), 75-75 (1OT), 82-78.



AIR PHILIPPINES' Alvin Pua and Vladimir Joe clamp down on Montaña. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

GAMES
TOMORROW
2 p.m.—
Montaña vs
ICTSI
4 p.m.—
Welcoat vs
AMP-
Ateneo

UST spikers bomb Lady Stags in 3 sets

DEFENDING champion University of Santo Tomas played true to form and whipped San Sebastian, 25-14, 25-18, 25-14, yesterday for a sweep of the first round of eliminations in the Shakey's V-League second conference at the Rizal Coliseum.

Power-hitting Roxanne Pimentel spearheaded the Tigresses' romp again with 16 points as the España-based spikers cruised to their sixth straight win in a little more than an hour.

Pimentel, who led the Tigresses to the 1993 and 1996 UAAP crowns, drew support from the troika of Kate Co Yu Kang, Mary Jean Balse and Venus Bernal.

Co Yu Kang, whose sister Karen also plays for the team, peppered the Lady Stags with 14 hits mostly coming from the wings while Balse, the first conference MVP, and Vernal pooled 13 and 10 points, respectively.

Second-running De La Salle matched UST's straight-sets victory with a 25-16, 25-18, 25-17 rout of Lyceum for its fourth victory against a lone defeat. Lyceum slid to 3-3.

Ramirez is PSC OIC, say Cojuangco, Puentevella

THERE is no appointment letter yet, but Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) commissioner Butch Ramirez has already warmed up for his job as officer-in-charge of the controversy-ridden agency.

Ramirez represented the PSC during the meeting between President Macapagal-Arroyo and several sports officials in Malacañang where they discussed, among other things, the country's preparation for the 2005 SEA Games.

Philippine Olympic Committee president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco and POC first vice president Monico Puentevella yesterday confirmed Ramirez's appointment as OIC.

Ramirez is one of the candidates for the top PSC post along with Ateneo sports director Jose "Junjun" Capistrano, the 1991 SEAG organizing committee secretary general, and Manila Sports Council chair and Asian taekwondo champ Ali Atienza. *Marc Reyes*

Cheating is the name of the game

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

SOUND of the times is a shriek. No, it's actually a song.

But belted by a chink-eyed maiden who sounds as though she's falling off a cliff, it's more of a cry for help.

The pop number is shrill and terribly scathing.

The pleading ballad defines deep to the hair roots the current Pinoy dilemma.

Sarah Geronimo has clearly outshone, outbelted her idol Regine Velasquez in shouting to the whole world how the Filipino is falling, falling, falling.

***

Law and order, or what little is left of it, has fallen into pieces.

Everybody goes his own chaotic way.

Sorry to report this but that's the prevailing picture, mainly at the frenzied peak of the holidays.

It was each motorist to his own disorderly ways.

It was each citizen to his own *birit* in this frantic race to stay sane, in one piece.

Heeeeelp! Please!

***

So who would dare check the deterioration and decay?

Does the President, for example, know that cheaters, the rampant violators of our little laws, have started to outnumber the few who toe the line?

Is the government, which rides trouble-free through the quagmire in escorted limos, aware of the crushing chaos, the ticking bomb out there?

Unfortunately, our law enforcers are simply too timid, or plainly too lazy to lessen the anarchy.

***

Correction. Measures are taken after carelessness has taken its gory toll.

Like the total log ban after raging floodwaters had swept away foothill villages.

Like noisy probes and new measures after the open plunder by grafting officials of the Armed Forces funds.

The problem here is that, just like with the exploding population, government appears helpless against the violation of rules and regulations.

A tricycle driver drives straight into your path in the open street.

Jeepney drivers stop right in the middle of the street, stall traffic flow, to pick up passengers.

Vehicles beat traffic lights with abandon.

Pedestrians cross anywhere, anytime they felt like crossing a street.

***

Galloping pollution is surely choking citizens of our busy cities.

Of course, what fuel this national bedlam are cheaters who go unhampered.

Truth is there are countless rules against petty violations.

Unfortunately, nothing is being done to uniformly implement them.

Frightening. The situation is often already in the neighborhood of undeclared civil disorder.

Our lazy government, needing no further warning, must take action.

Otherwise, it could fall victim of its own lethargy.

***

There's still time to save the situation.

Take, for example, the happy result of the swift action taken by Lipa City Mayor Vilma Santos against a big piggery in her area.

Mayor Vi moved after a concerned group, headed by civic leader Nandy Charvet, Dr. Ruel Reyes of San Pablo City, Gerry Mayor and Mar Maralit of Lipa City, called attention to the disease-causing piggery in Pangao, a good 12-minute ride from the Lipa City Hall.

There came a little verbal skirmish, involving the barangay chair in the affected area.

But, soon enough, the piggery, subjected to strict monitoring, was forced to rehabilitate.

Before that, noxious emissions had victimized many farm children living around the piggery.

***

These poor, pale kids, who had to exist with the unbearable stench of pig manure, predictably suffered from respiratory ailments.

The discovery was made during a gift-giving affair in Pangao in the Christmas of 2003.

Last Christmas, less than a year after Mayor Vi had taken action, the same group of kids reported bubbly, ruddy-cheeked to collect goodies and little cash in the annual gift-giving affair.

Their happy, smiling parents said the children's renewed good health was the greatest gift they had received last Christmas.

This rewarding event could be replicated all over the country.

This is a cry for help.

We need a government that's not timid and lazy.

We need rulers who are not afraid to face the mirror and go after cheats.

FOUR-GOLD WONDER

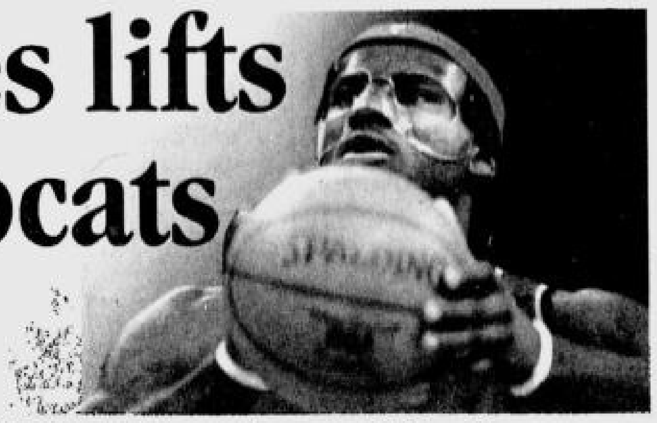
TEN-YEAR-OLD freestyle specialist Vernice B. Enciso shows the form that netted her four gold medals in the Skate Singapore competitions held at the Fuji Ice Palace in Jurong, East Singapore, recently. The SM Megamall figure ice-skating team ace also captured three golds during the Skate Manila in November last year. The Lion City championships featured more than 200 skaters from Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

Roligon 4-cocker kicks off Jan. 17

A GUARANTEED prize of P450,000 is at stake in the "Abot-Kaya Part 3 4-Cock Derby" slated Jan. 17 at the Roligon Mega Cockpit. The third instalment of the popular derby pegs the entry fee at P6,600 and the minimum bet at P4,400. The champion handler gets P30,000, while the top gaffer takes P15,000. Bonus prizes of P30,000 and P20,000 will go to the championship's fastest-kill winner and runner-up, respectively. Submission of weights for cocks tipping the scales from 1.800 to 2.400 kilograms is on Jan. 16 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Meanwhile, Roligon has scheduled its 15th Anniversary 7-Cock Derby with P4 million in cash prizes and a 3-door 2.8-liter Pajero at stake. The entry fee is P12,000 and the minimum bet P5,500. The 3-cock elimination rounds are set Jan. 29 and 31 and Feb. 2 and 5. Day-champion prizes of P100,000 await all the three-pointers. Entries with two points or less in the preliminaries clash in the semifinals set Feb. 7 with the day-champions getting P500,000. The 4-cock championship round is slated Feb. 9 for entries with scores of 2.5 or 3 points.

Hayop sa sakit ng katawan?
ETO NA ANG
MAS MABILIS
TUMALAB,
MAHABA
MAGPAGINHAWA.
gel
METHYL SALICYLATE + MENTHOL
ALAXAN® GEL
SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY PRICE
₱10
PER 5 GRAM TUBE
If symptoms persist, consult your doctor.
Also available in 30g at ₱55 and 10g at ₱20.

Masked James lifts Cavs past Bobcats



LEBRON James wears a mask to protect his injured face. AFP

NEW YORK—Wearing a plastic mask to protect a fractured cheekbone, LeBron James poured in a game-high 26 points to lead the Cleveland Cavaliers past the Charlotte Bobcats, 94-83, on Monday.

James broke his left cheekbone during last Wednesday's loss to the Houston Rockets and did not travel to Charlotte with his teammates, instead remaining in Cleveland to be fitted with a protective shield.

Last season's rookie of the year was given the new equipment early on Monday then hurried to North Carolina to play.

James appeared tentative at first, scoring just two points in the opening quarter.

But if the mask bothered him it did not show in his overall performance, as he added eight rebounds and dished out six assists in his first game since turning 20 on Thursday.

James' display would have offered some reassurance for billionaire Dan Gilbert, who earlier in the day bought the Cavaliers from longtime owner Gordon Gund for $375 million.

It was the third win in four games for the Cavaliers while the Bobcats absorbed their sixth straight loss.

Bobcats Emeka Okafor, who earlier in the day was named NBA rookie of the month, had 12 points and six rebounds to end his streak of 19 consecutive double-doubles.

In Miami, Ray Allen scored 35 points and Rashard Lewis added 17 points and 13 rebounds as the Seattle SuperSonics edged the Heat, 98-96, snapping their franchise-record 14-game winning streak.

Complete results: Boston 108, New Orleans 90; Toronto 105, Orlando 94; Cleveland 94, Charlotte 83; Seattle 98, Miami 96; Memphis 92, Utah 82; Detroit 87, Chicago 80; LA Clippers 102, Denver 98; Philadelphia 112, Golden State 104.

Federer smothers Ferrer

DOHA—World number one and top seed Roger Federer posted a fluent 6-1 6-1 victory over Spaniard David Ferrer in the first round of the ATP $1-million Qatar Open on Monday.

Federer will next face Briton Greg Rusedski, a 6-3 7-5 winner over Czech Jan Hernych. Last year's runner-up, Ivan Ljubicic of Croatia, beat Switzerland's Stanislas Wawrinka, 6-3, 6-4. *Reuters*

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA
BY M. 999

Race 1—1. Something Silver 2. Cable Car 3. Ocean Dignity
Race 2—1. Magpakailanman 2. Capricorn Aida 3. Five O'Clock 4. Look Whos' Playing
Race 3—1. Vivere 2. Daddy's Girl 3. Pay to Cash/Fastteller 4. Dancing Slew 5. Original
Race 4—1. Montezuma 2. King's Choice 3. Yokozuna/Burst of Speed 4. In Command
Race 5—1. Speed Machine 2. Sacred Hall 3. Guad/Balwarte 4. Sir Golden Score 5. Master King
Race 6—1. Victoria's Secret 2. King Lance 3. Shaolin 4. My Rabbonnie/Jaje
Race 7—1. Carolina Belle 2. Ilang Ilang Queen 3. Gigi's Gold 4. Ginja 5. Ichiro
Race 8—1. Nagmamahal 2. Angel Eyes 3. Fine Offer 4. Loving Thunder 5. Material Trick 6. Golden Treasure

Paragua bungled his GM bid—Campo

MARK Paragua's failure to become a grandmaster last year was entirely his own or his handlers' making. No one else is to blame.

Thus wrote Florencio Campomanes, president emeritus of Fide (World Chess Federation), in a letter faxed to the INQUIRER yesterday.

Campomanes felt that an article, entitled "Paragua laments GM title impasse" which saw print Jan. 3, misleads people into thinking that he had a hand in the delayed confirmation of Paragua's GM title.

Fact is, according to Campomanes, Paragua's so-called GM results in Ukraine (Alushta) are still being examined by the Fide's Qualification Commission.

Campomanes bared that the last word he got from the qualification commission chair is that "Alushta (event) is suspicious."

Hence, Campomanes added: In truth, Paragua has only one fully acceptable grandmaster result—the Singapore Open last month.

Paragua was supposed to be conferred his GM title in October after topping the initial Alushta tilt, tying for second in the next and winning the third edition. The Alushta organizers, however, failed to meet the Aug. 31 deadline for submitting the results for title applications.

Thus, the 20-year-old Paragua's title application will have to be looked into when the Fide Presidential Board meets in February.

Campomanes also clarified that he never advised Paragua, the world's top-ranked international master with his ELO of 2586, to refrain from playing in European tournaments. On the contrary, Campomanes stressed that he encouraged Paragua to play in Europe rather than in North America.

Noting Paragua's hectic schedule, Campomanes advised Paragua to stop traveling and competing for at least three months. "He (Paragua) must have a regimen; study chess literature," said Campomanes, who wished that Paragua "will hopefully make his GM (title) this year."

ROCK THE ROAD!
Congratulations to the Lucky winners of Special Edition Rudy Project shades, just one of the many prizes up for grabs in the
Castrol zoompromo
1. Teodulfo A. Angeles Jr. Zamboanga City
2. Reynaldo Alvasan Lucena City
3. Fred Lander Dano Valencia City
4. Christopher De Mesa Bulacan
5. Jose Ponce II Parañaque
Hurry and join the winners league as the Castrol Zoom Mania continues... For more details pls. log on to www.castrolzoomclub.com or call the Castrol Zoom hotline at 02-5337798
Per DTI-NCR Permit No 1989 series of 2004

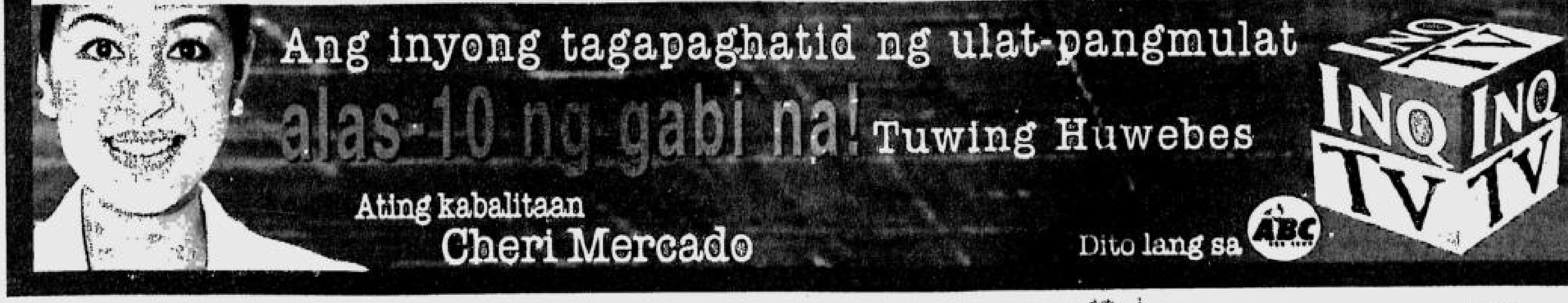
WEDNESDAYS 10:00 pm
LOOK WHO'S TALKING
with Johnny Litton, Tessa Prieto-Valdes and Anton San Diego
ABC Iba tayo
MON-FRI 9:30 pm
BIG NEWS
with Cheri Mercado-Santos and Amelyn Veloso
ClickTheCity.com
[illegible]

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER TV GUIDE

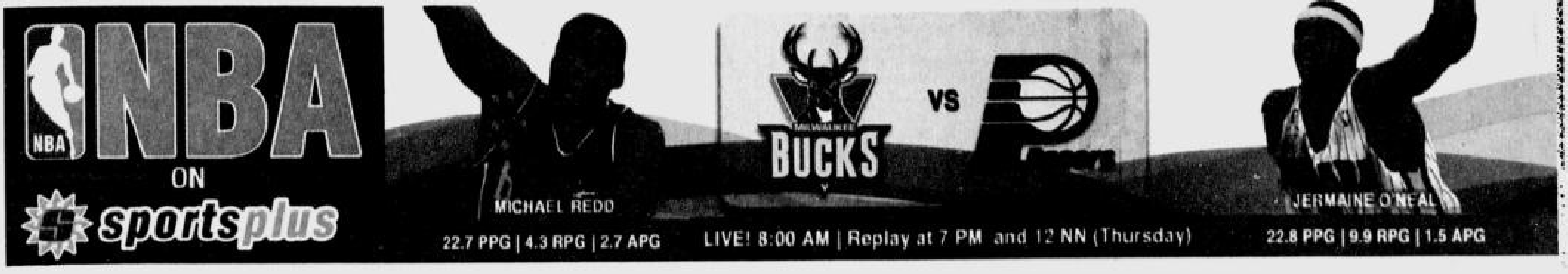
Wednesday, January 5, 2005

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABS-CBN 2				Showbiz No. 1	Sandara's Romance	Get Backers	Ragnarok	Masked Rider Ryuki	TV Patrol	Spirits	Krystala	Lovers In Paris	Hiram	Star Circle Nat'l Teen Quest	Yes Yes Show			Insider	Special Assignment
NBN	Value Vision	Value Vision		Value Vision	Teledyaryo	Value Vision		Talk Ko 'To		Linya		Teledyaryo		Mosconi Cup 2003				MMDA On The Road	
ABC 5			Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko	PBA Game-Bol	PBA				Sentro	PBA					Big News	Look Who's Talking		Philippine Badminton Tournaments	Billboard On-Air
GMA 7	Leya (2:45PM)	Joyride (3:15PM)	Snow Angel (3:45PM)		One Piece	Witch Hunter Robin	Slam Dunk	24 Oras		Extra Challenge		Mulawin	Starstruck (8:45PM)	Forever In My Heart (9:15PM)		Nuts Entertainment			Saksi
RPN 9	Metro TV Shopping			Hey Arnold	As Told By Ginger	Wild Thornberrys	Sponge Bob	Entertainment Tonight	Scrubs	Everwood		Ally McBeal				Newswatch Now			
IBC 13		Japan Video Topic		EZ Shop		IBC Express Balita		Home Shopping Network		Retro TV		Linawin Natin		D.E.N.R.		Retro TV	IBC News Tonite	Breaking Barriers	
Solar		Wwe Heat		WWE Confidential		Streetfighter	Static Shock	Godzilla	Incredible Hulk	Invisible Man		Wwe Raw				Wwe Heat		WWE Confidential	
Nickelodeon	Dora, The Explorer	Little Bear	Blues Clues	SpongeBob SquarePants	All That	Are You Afraid of the Dark?	100 Deeds of Eddie McDowd	The Amanda Show	The Brother's Garcia	Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	As Told By Ginger	Are You Afraid of the Dark?	All That	100 Deeds of Eddie McDowd	The Amanda Show	Rocket Power	The Wild Thornberrys	The Brother's Garcia
MYX		Urban MYX	Rock MYX	Pop MYX	OPM MYX	Take 5	My MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Mellow MYX	Rock MYX	Pop MYX	Urban MYX	MYX Live!		My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX	Mellow MYX
ETC		Knock First	JKX	The Today Show		Starting Over		NBC Nightly News	Entertainment Tonight	Will & Grace	Good Morning Miami			Meet My Folks		Tonight Show With Jay Leno		Blind Date	Fifth Wheel
Studio 23	Bewitched	Urban MYX	Rock MYX	Pop MYX	OPM MYX	Take 5	My MYX	Batman Animated Series	Samurai Deeper Kyo	Wazzup Wazzup	Mr. Bean	C.S.I.		The Amazing Race 6		News Central	The Oprah Winfrey Show		The Good Life With Cory Quirino
AXN		Fear Factor		Alias		Ripley's Believe It or Not		Gensomaden Saiyuki	Gensomaden Saiyuki	7 Days		The Amazing Race		CSI: Miami		Fear Factor		Alias	
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Home Improvement	Ally McBeal		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia	Friends	Ed		Philly		Third Watch		Friends	Ed
CNN				Business International		Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	Business International		World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport
National Geographic	On Assignment	Passport	Sunset Boulevard Of Dreams	Taboo		Extreme Latitude	Young Global Hot Shots	The Snake Wranglers	Croc Chronicles Dr. Brady Barr	Wild		About Asia		Nat'l Geographic Specials		Passport		Taboo	
Solar Sports													NBA TV Daily						
Lifestyle Network	Country Style	Interiors By Design	Decorating With Style	Decorating Cents	Molto Mario	Sweet Dreams	30 Minute Meals	Bill Boggs Corner	Unwrapped	Wolfgang Puck's	E! Entertainment Special		E-News Weekend		TBA			Planet Parent	Good Eats
HBO	Thir13en Ghosts			Mortal Thoughts			Little Nikita (5:45PM)				Jaws III (7:20PM)			Ballistic: Ecks Vs. Sever			Superman II		
Star Movies			The Wisdom Of Crocodiles				Rent Control			The Hunted (7:10PM)				Double Impact			Darkman (10:45PM)		
Cartoon Network	Scooby-Doo Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	TBA					Yu-Gi-Oh!	Gundam Seed	The Looney Tunes Show	Courage The Cowardly Dog	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	The Addams Family	The Funky Phantom	Boomerang - Boomeraction	Yu-Gi-Oh!
Disney Channel	Kim Possible	Totally Spies	Lizzie Mcguire	Even Stevens	That's So Raven	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	The Legend Of Tarzan	Lilo & Stitch/Untalkative Bunny	America's Funniest Home Video	Wonderful World Of Disney			My Wife And Kids	That's So Raven	According To Jim	America's Funniest Home Video	Wonderful World Of Disney	
Cinemax				Street Justice: Legacy			The Fabulous Baker Boys				Escape From Atlantis			High School High			One Way Out (10:25PM)		
Hallmark Channel	Mad About You	Torso				Play With Me Sesame	Sesame Street		Bewitched	Mysterious Ways		Changi		A Time To Remember			Strong Medicine (10:35PM)		Mysterious Ways
Discovery Channel		Science Mysteries		Science Frontiers		Wild Discovery		Ultimate Discovery		Sayonara Changi		Hell In The Pacific Inferno		Wild Discovery		Best Of Discovery			
MTV Philippines		MTV Diyes		Non-Stop Hits		Non-Stop Hits	05 MAA Nominee Specials	MTV Get Spotted	MTV Loveline	Non-Stop Hits		MTV Rock'd	Whatever Things	TRL		Room Raiders	One Bad Trip	VH1 Hits/ Video Collection	
Sports Plus															Slipstream		NFL		
EWTN	Council Of Faith	Angelus (3:15PM)	Refurbishing The Soul	The Donut Man	Faith Factory	The Holy Rosary With Mother Angelica and the Nuns Of Our Lady Of Angels Monastery	Saints For The Third Millenium	The Virtues	EWTN Gallery	Mother Angelica Live Classics		One In Their Hearts	Pope Pius XII	Daily Mass		Angelus (10:15PM)	St. Catherine Of Sienna	Our Father's Plan	

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

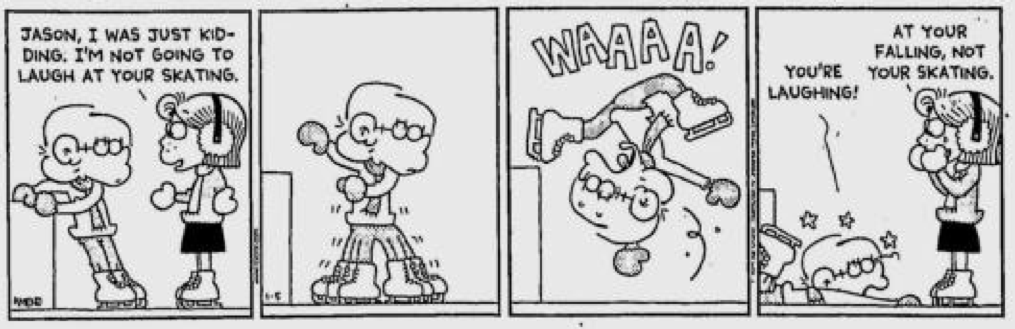


Ang inyong tagapaghatid ng ulat-pangmulat
alas-10 ng gabi na! Tuwing Huwebes
Ating kabalitaan
Cheri Mercado
Dito lang sa ABC
INQ TV

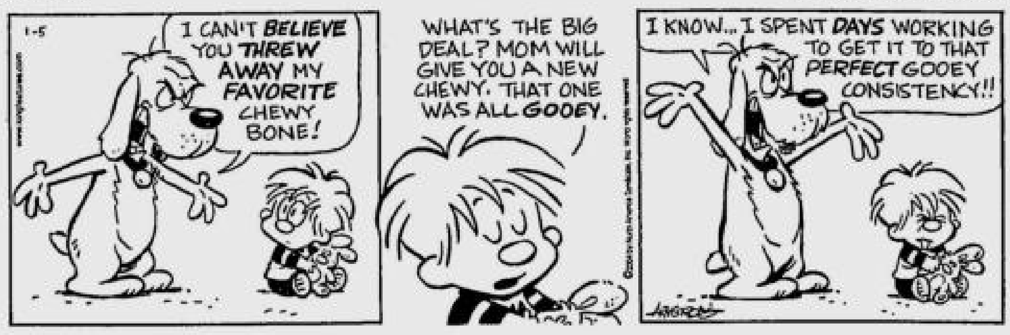


NBA ON sportsplus
MICHAEL REDD 22.7 PPG | 4.3 RPG | 2.7 APG
BUCKS VS
LIVE! 8:00 AM | Replay at 7 PM and 12 NN (Thursday)
JERMAINE O'NEAL 22.8 PPG | 9.9 RPG | 1.5 APG

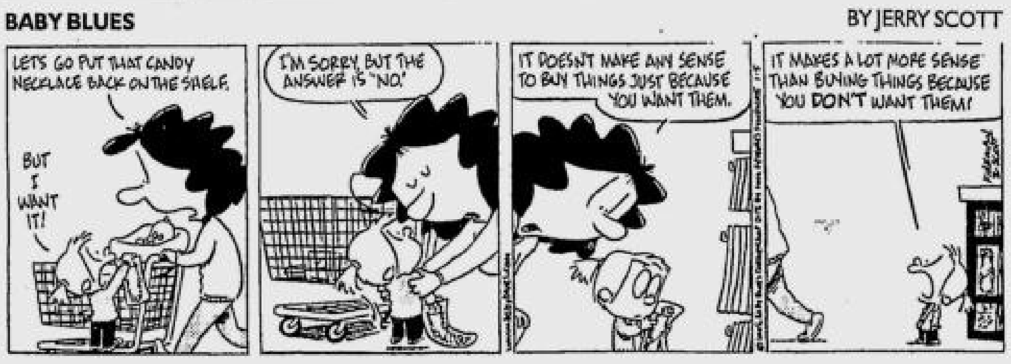
FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND


JASON, I WAS JUST KIDDING. I'M NOT GOING TO LAUGH AT YOUR SKATING.
1-5
WAAAA!
YOU'RE LAUGHING!
AT YOUR FALLING, NOT YOUR SKATING.

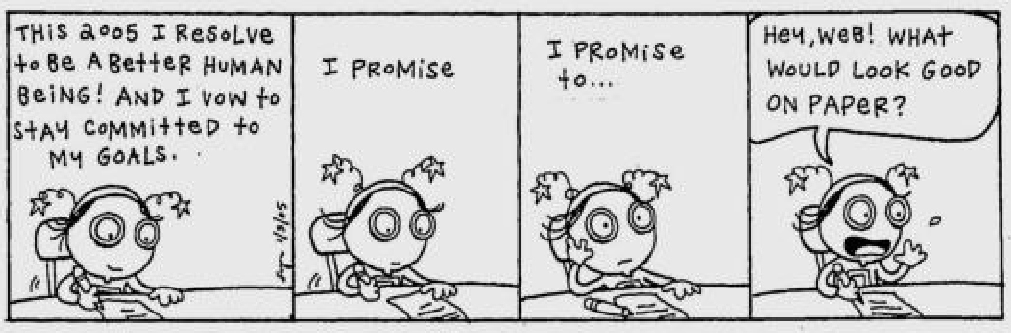
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


1-5
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU THREW AWAY MY FAVORITE CHEWY BONE!
WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL? MOM WILL GIVE YOU A NEW CHEWY. THAT ONE WAS ALL GOOEY.
I KNOW... I SPENT DAYS WORKING TO GET IT TO THAT PERFECT GOOEY CONSISTENCY!!

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


LETS GO PUT THAT CANDY NECKLACE BACK ON THE SHELF.
BUT I WANT IT!
I'M SORRY, BUT THE ANSWER IS "NO."
IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE TO BUY THINGS JUST BECAUSE YOU WANT THEM.
IT MAKES A LOT MORE SENSE THAN BUYING THINGS BECAUSE YOU DON'T WANT THEM!

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


THIS 2005 I RESOLVE TO BE A BETTER HUMAN BEING! AND I VOW TO STAY COMMITTED TO MY GOALS.
I PROMISE
I PROMISE TO...
HEY, WEB! WHAT WOULD LOOK GOOD ON PAPER?

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You can be extremely tenacious. If something's important to you, you never let go. You have the rare quality of learning from your mistakes. You understand that adversity is character-building. The year ahead involves hard work, building and construction. You'll see your payoff in 2006.
Birthdate of: Robert Duvall, actor; Juan Carlos I, king of Spain; Diane Keaton, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Think about long-range plans connected with school, universities, publishing, travel, medicine and the law. You can do something in these areas that will be practical and helpful.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): This is a good day to think about plans for a rainy day. Take a look at your bills and your debt. (You might as well make friends with the scary facts.)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Talk to partners about moneymaking ideas. This is a good time to form partnerships that can be a practical, long-term benefit for you.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Make long-range plans at work today. Look at what needs to be changed or reformed or repaired in any way. Think about the easiest, most economical way to do it.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Your sign rules children, the theater and the arts. Today you have an opportunity to teach or give advice in these areas. Let younger minds benefit from your experience.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Think about what you want to achieve at home, on the domestic scene and within your family. What direction do you want everything to take in the next five years?

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Think about ways you can be helpful to siblings and relatives. Don't bother keeping score. Pettiness only erodes your own dignity. Be helpful because you care.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): This is a fine day to make some financial plans for the long-range future. Think about how you want to generate earnings. Decide how to use your possessions to make your life easier.

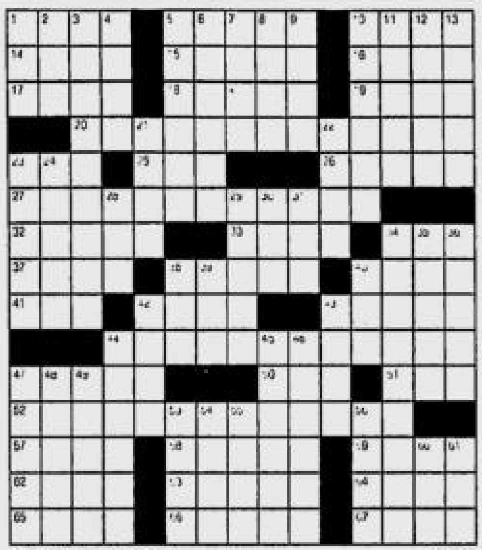
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You're giving a lot of thought today to shared property and how to work something out with someone. But at a deeper level, you might be face-to-face with someone else's values that are different from yours.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You might figure a way the government or a large institution can benefit you. You might also figure out how partnerships can help you as well. A potential benefit exists somewhere!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Talk to someone older or more experienced. You don't have to reinvent the wheel. Get advice from others who have gone before you. You won't regret it.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Serious discussions with bosses, parents, teachers and authority figures focus on your long-term future. People want to know what you can offer them.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR
1/5/05

ACROSS
1 British bucks
5 Cheese choice
10 Carrier bag
14 A single time
15 Phi Beta __
16 Of grades 1 to 12
17 West and Jemison
18 German city
19 Alda or Ladd
20 Display the height of anger
23 Overflow letters
25 __-friendly
26 Fender flaws
27 Display the length of restlessness
32 Preferences
33 Eye element
34 Atlanta-based medical org.
37 Words of understanding
38 Make laugh
40 English title
41 Perth's river
42 Mosque leader
43 Ancient city on the Nile
44 Display the peak of partying
47 Oregon capital
50 "__ the fields..."
51 Boom times
52 Display the dimensions of cabin fever
57 Adventure hero Williams
58 Remain suspended
59 Favorites
62 Module
63 Watchful
64 Take hold of
65 Dole (out)
66 Cardiff men
67 Going by yacht

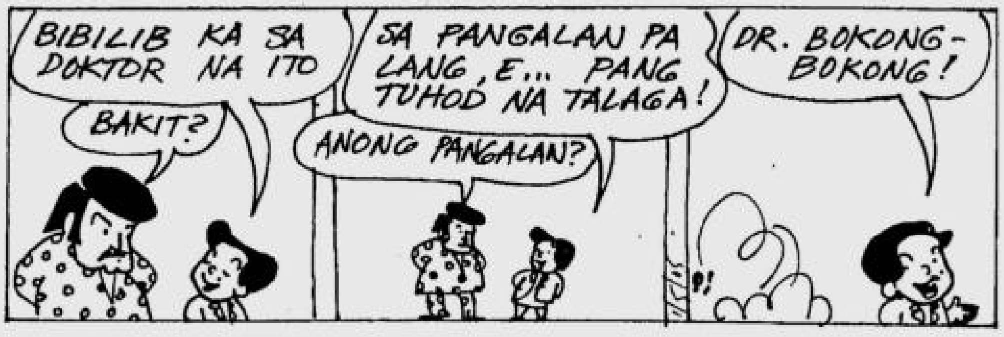
DOWN
1 Shiite pilgrimage destination
2 Actress Merkel
3 Skating sport
4 Lucy's spouse
5 Drawing
6 Paiute's neighbor
7 __ dixit
8 On __ (as a gamble)
9 Sensible
10 Whaler's cohort
11 Exhausted
12 Singsong mode of speaking
13 Some rulers
21 Hanoi holidays
22 Altar assents
23 Divide
24 Mrs. Gorbachev
28 Shoe width
29 Log chute
30 Bandleader Brown
31 Indefinite pronoun
34 Merrymakers
35 Wilt
36 Staff signs
38 French pal
39 Pas' mates
40 Ending of pamphlet?
42 Metrical foot
43 Blackbird
44 Newscast location
45 Looms
46 Home, figuratively
47 Rugby formation
48 Coeur d'__, ID
49 Demarcate
53 Annual melt
54 Perforation
55 Mr. Knievel
56 Org. of Park. and Pak
60 Dead heat
61 Mineral spring

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

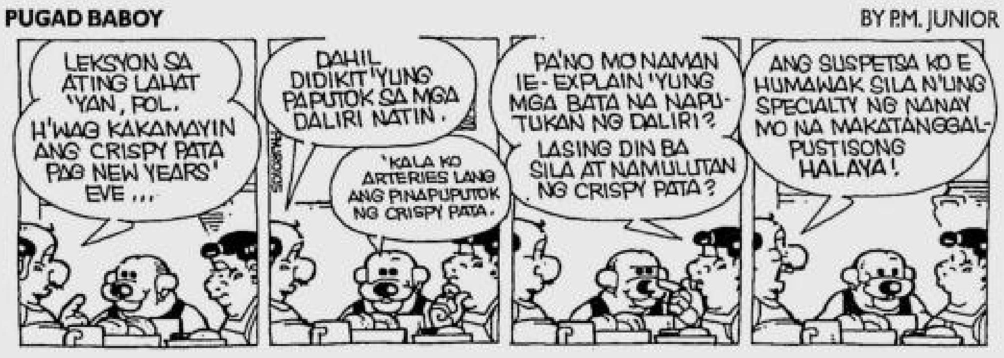
A	S	P	S	■	I	S	M	S	■	B	R	I	A	N
S	K	I	P	■	N	E	A	R	■	A	E	R	I	E
H	I	G	H	P	L	A	Y	I	N	G	C	A	R	D
■	■	■	E	R	A	T	O	■	E	G	O	■	■	■
E	S	C	R	O	W	S	■	A	V	E	N	G	E	R
T	U	L	I	P	S	■	B	R	A	D	■	U	A	E
S	P	I	C	E	■	S	L	E	D	■	O	T	T	O
■	■	M	A	L	E	M	O	N	A	R	C	H	■	■
Z	E	A	L	■	X	E	N	A	■	E	E	R	I	E
E	N	T	■	M	O	L	D	■	S	W	A	I	N	S
E	V	E	R	E	T	T	■	H	A	R	N	E	S	S
■	■	■	I	D	I	■	M	A	M	A	S	■	■	■
C	H	I	E	F	C	H	E	S	S	P	I	E	C	E
T	B	I	L	L	■	U	N	T	O	■	D	O	L	T
N	O	I	S	Y	■	E	D	E	N	■	E	N	I	D

(C)2005 Tribune Media Services, Inc.
All rights reserved
1/5/05

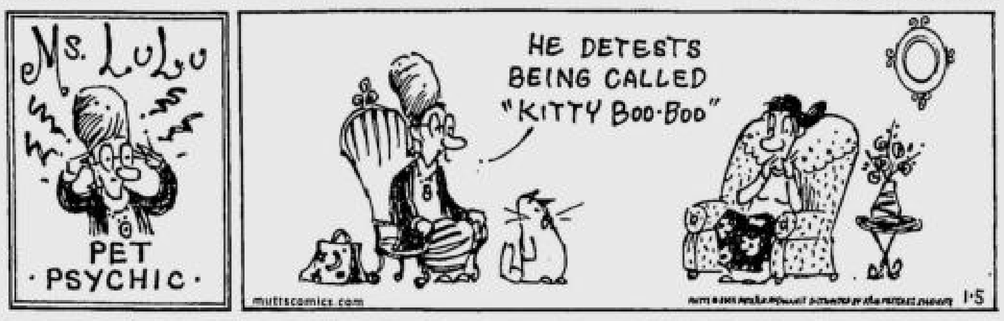
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


BIBILIB KA SA DOKTOR NA ITO
BAKIT?
SA PANGALAN PA LANG, E... PANG TUHOD NA TALAGA!
ANONG PANGALAN?
DR. BOKONG-BOKONG!

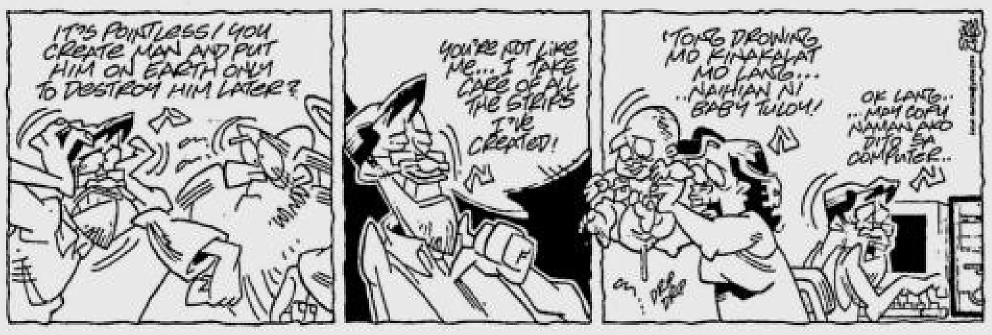
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


LEKSYON SA ATING LAHAT 'YAN, POL. H'WAG KAKAMAYIN ANG CRISPY PATA PAG NEW YEARS' EVE ...
DAHIL DIDIKIT 'YUNG PAPUTOK SA MGA DALIRI NATIN.
'KALA KO ARTERIES LANG ANG PINAPUPUTOK NG CRISPY PATA.
PA'NO MO NAMAN IE-EXPLAIN 'YUNG MGA BATA NA NAPUTUKAN NG DALIRI?
LASING DIN BA SILA AT NAMULUTAN NG CRISPY PATA?
ANG SUSPETSA KO E HUMAWAK SILA N'UNG SPECIALTY NG NANAY MO NA MAKATANGGAL-PUSTISONG HALAYA!

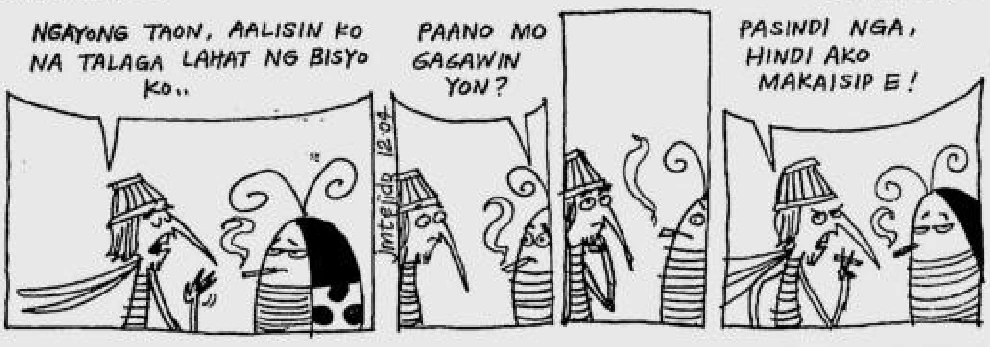
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


Ms. LuLu
PET · PSYCHIC ·
HE DETESTS BEING CALLED "KITTY BOO-BOO"
muttscomics.com
1·5

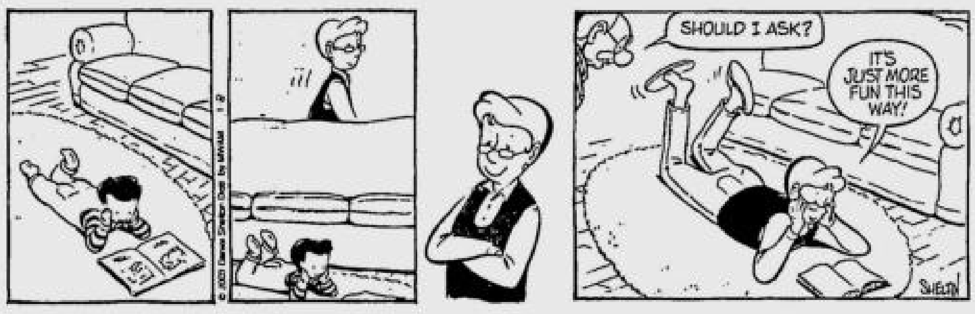
DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


IT'S POINTLESS! YOU CREATE MAN AND PUT HIM ON EARTH ONLY TO DESTROY HIM LATER?
YOU'RE NOT LIKE ME... I TAKE CARE OF ALL THE STRIPS I'VE CREATED!
'TONG DROWING MO KINAKALAT MO LANG... ..NAIHIAN NI BABY TULOY!
OK LANG.. ...MAY COPY NAMAN AKO DITO SA COMPUTER..

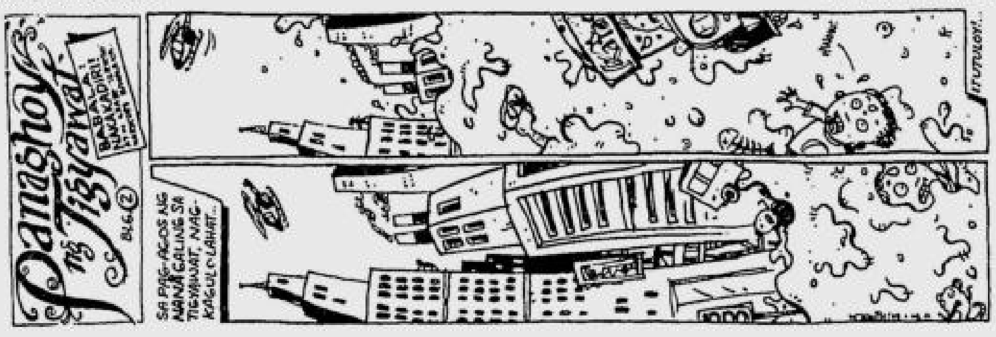
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


NGAYONG TAON, AALISIN KO NA TALAGA LAHAT NG BISYO KO..
PAANO MO GAGAWIN YON?
PASINDI NGA, HINDI AKO MAKAISIP E!
Imtejido 12.04

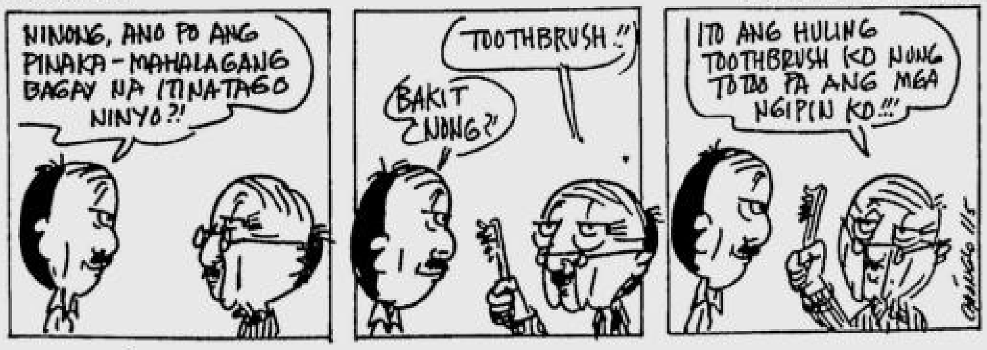
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


SHOULD I ASK?
IT'S JUST MORE FUN THIS WAY!
SHELTON

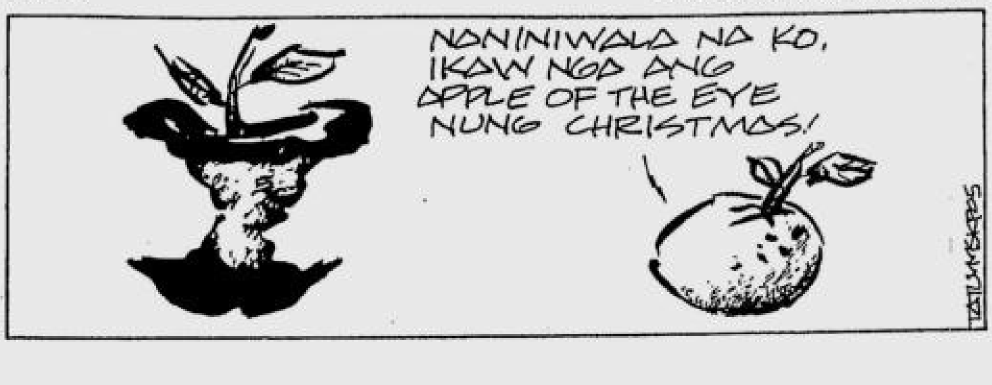
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


Panaghoy ng Tigyawat
BLG. 2
BABALA! NAKAKADIRI!
SA PAG-AGOS NG NANA'T GALING SA TIGYAWAT, NAG-KAGULO LAHAT...

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


NINONG, ANO PO ANG PINAKA-MAHALAGANG BAGAY NA ITINATAGO NINYO?!
TOOTHBRUSH!!
BAKIT NONG?
ITO ANG HULING TOOTHBRUSH KO NUNG TOTOO PA ANG MGA NGIPIN KO!!!
CHIONGLO 1/5

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


NANINIWALA NA KO, IKAW NGA ANG APPLE OF THE EYE NUNG CHRISTMAS!
TATUM&PAPU

Positive values for young viewers

MORE movies that can teach young viewers how to live life more creatively, responsibly and productively:

"The Days of Wine and Roses," directed by **Blake Edwards.** An advertising executive becomes an alcoholic, and his fiancee also starts drinking. In time, he decides that he can no longer handle alcohol. Things appear to be getting better, but she returns to the bottle. This breaks his heart, but he realizes he needs to get on with his life.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

Themes: Falling in love for the wrong reasons. What to do if you drink too much. When your partner can't stop being an alcoholic. Losing track of your responsibility. And getting a brand-new start in life.

"Dead Poets Society," directed by **Peter Weir** and starring **Robin Williams, Ethan Hawke** and **Robert Sean Leonard.** A former student returns to his old school as an English teacher. He inspires his students with his unconventional teaching methods. A group of his students reform the Dead Poets' society, a club started when the English teacher was a student. But he is falsely blamed for the suicide of one of his students, and is released from his teaching duties.

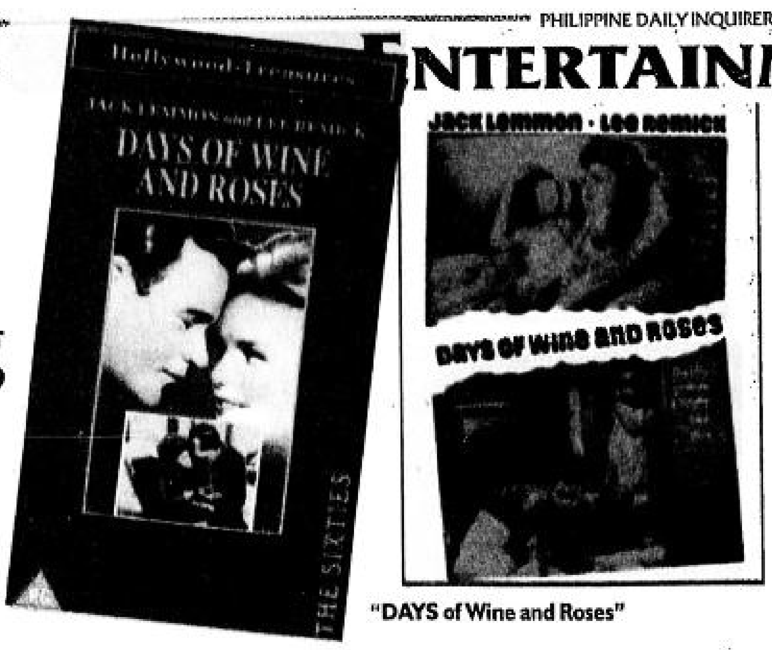
Themes: Meeting someone you'll never forget. Pushing your children too hard. Feeling it's OK to express your thoughts and feelings. What to do if somebody is thinking of committing suicide. And what you can do if people are close-minded.

"The Doctor," directed by **Radha Haines,** and starring **William Hurt** and **Elizabeth Perkins.** A pompous doctor develops throat cancer, and experiences the way he treats his patients. He meets a cancer patient coping with the same problem. The sobering experience changes his outlook, and makes him a new man.

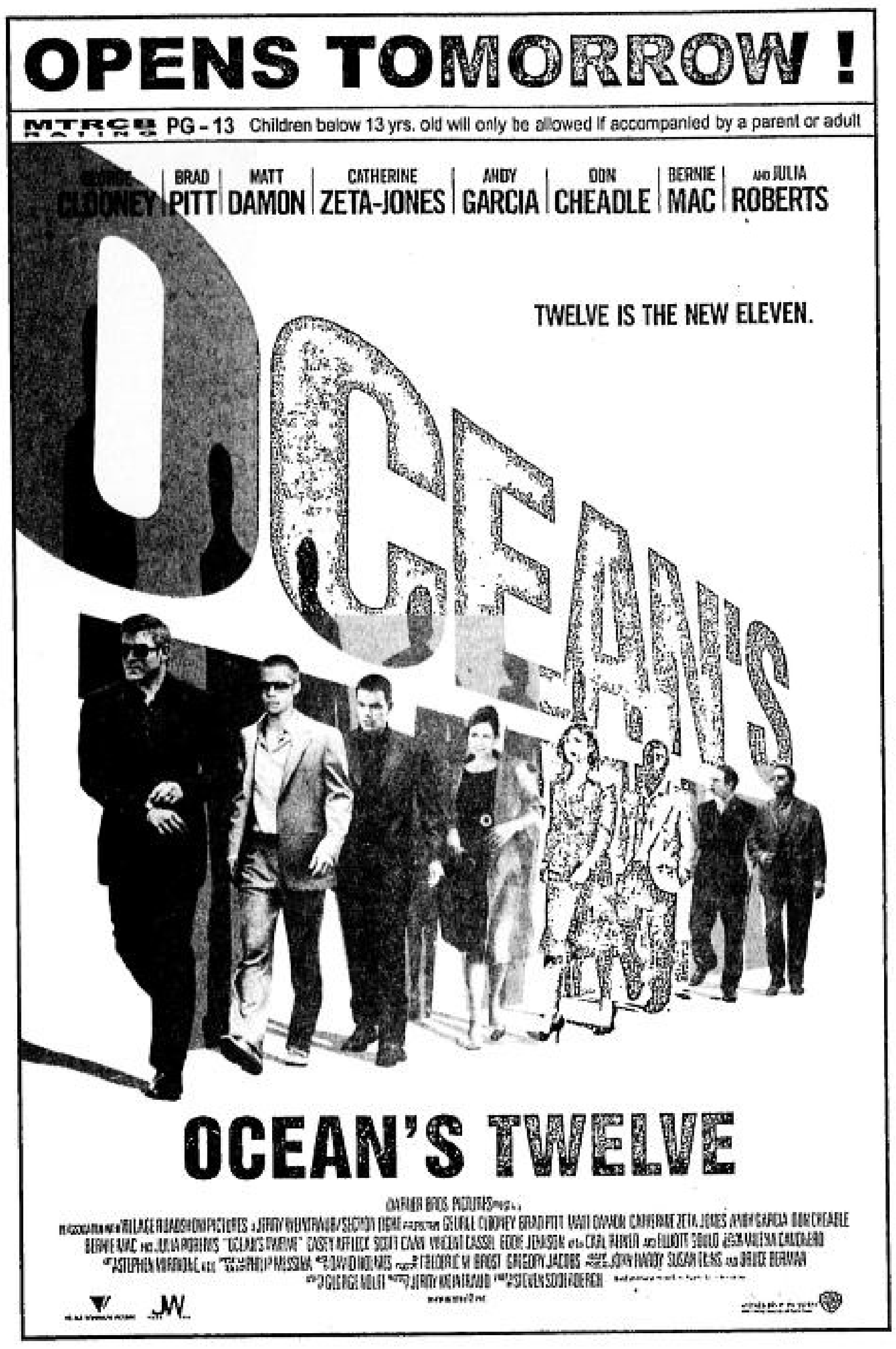
Themes: Falling off a pedestal. Getting real. Realizing you aren't immortal. Learning to treat other human beings with respect. Getting a second chance to live a better life.

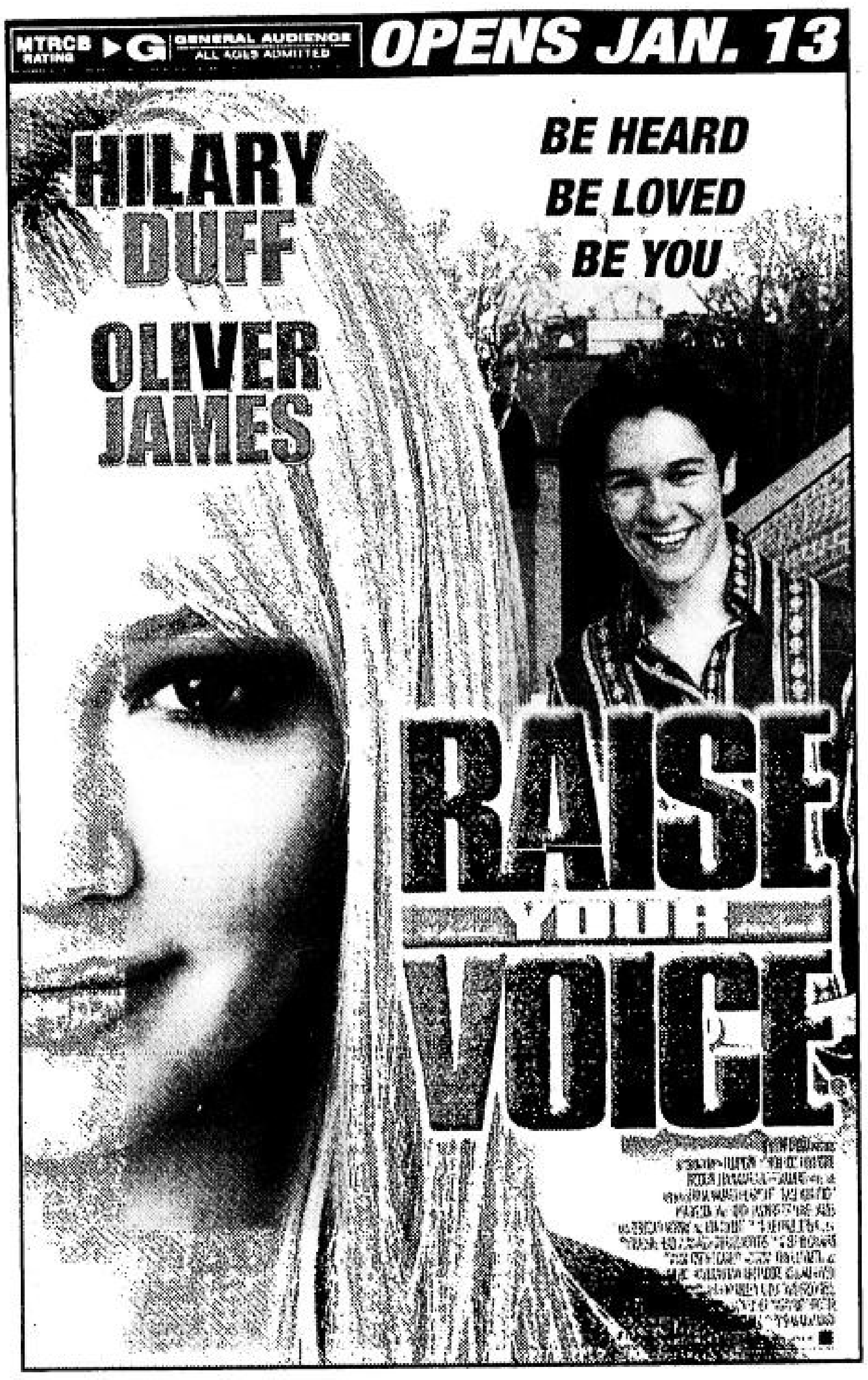
"Field of Dreams," directed by **Richard Brooks,** and starring **Kevin Costner, Amy Madigan** and **James Earl Jones.** Ray is barely making his farm work. One day, he gets a message to build a baseball field, and famous players who have died start

POSITIVE/ A24


Hollywood Treasures
JACK LEMMON and LEE REMICK
DAYS OF WINE AND ROSES
THE SIXTIES
JACK LEMMON · LEE REMICK
DAYS OF WINE AND ROSES

"DAYS of Wine and Roses"


OPENS TOMORROW !
MTRCB RATING PG - 13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
GEORGE CLOONEY | BRAD PITT | MATT DAMON | CATHERINE ZETA-JONES | ANDY GARCIA | DON CHEADLE | BERNIE MAC | AND JULIA ROBERTS
TWELVE IS THE NEW ELEVEN.
OCEAN'S TWELVE


MTRCB RATING ▶G GENERAL AUDIENCE ALL AGES ADMITTED
OPENS JAN. 13
HILARY DUFF
OLIVER JAMES
BE HEARD
BE LOVED
BE YOU
RAISE YOUR VOICE

SM CINEMA movietime
Enteng Kabisote
OKAY KA FAIRY KO... THE LEGEND
would like to thank SM moviegoers for making us No. 1.
VIC SOTTO KRISTINE HERMOSA
moviepickoftheWeek
Now showing in more SM CINEMA theaters.

NOW SHOWING

AISHITE IMASU
ENTENG KABISOTE
SO HAPPY TOGETHER
LATIKMAN
MANO PO
SIGAW
SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
PANAGHOY SA SUBA

LUZON

sm city pampanga
1 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
2 LASTIKMAN
3 SIGAW
4 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
5 MANO PO 3
6 ENTENG KABISOTE

sm city marilao
1 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
2 LASTIKMAN
3 MANO PO 3
4 ENTENG KABISOTE

sm city baguio
1 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
2 LSTIKMAN
3 AISHITE IMASU 1941
4 SIGAW

sm city bacoor
1 AISHITE IMASU 1941
2 SIGAW
3 ENTENG KABISOTE
4 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
5 LASTIKMAN
6 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
7 MANO PO 3
8 PANAGHOY SA SUBA

sm city batangas
1 MANO PO 3
2 LASTIKMAN
3 ENTENG KABISOTE
4 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS

sm city dasmariñas
1 SIGAW
2 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
3 ENTENG KABISOTE
4 MANO PO 3

sm city lucena
1 MANO PO 3
2 ENTENG KABISOTE
3 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
4 PANAGHOY SA SUBA

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

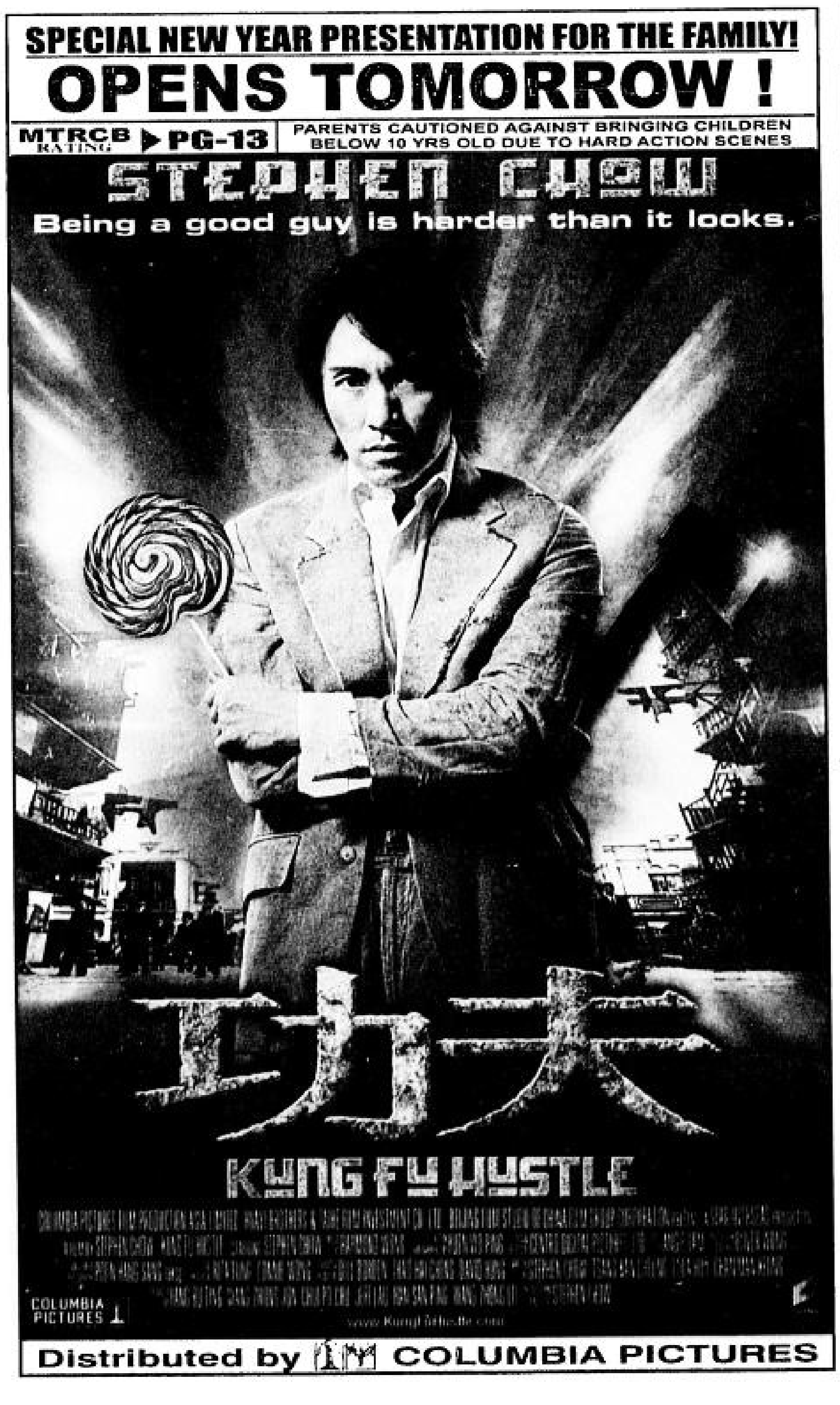
sm city cebu
1 MANO PO 3
2 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
3 LASTIKMAN
4 AISHITE IMASU 1941
5 PANAGHOY SA SUBA
6 SIGAW
7 ENTENG KABISOTE
8 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS

sm city iloilo
1 PANAGHOY SA SUBA
2 RESERVED
3 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
4 ENTENG KABISOTE
5 LASTIKMAN
6 MANO PO 3
7 RESERVED
8 SO HAPPY TOGETHER

sm city davao
1 MANO PO 3
2 ENTENG KABISOTE
3 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
4 LASTIKMAN
5 AISHITE IMASU 1941
6 PANAGHOYSA SUBA

sm city cagayan de oro
1 MANO PO 3
2 LASTIKMAN
3 ENTENG KABISOTE
4 SO HAPPY TOGETHER

Movies are subject to change without prior notice • For complete movie schedule, visit www.smcinema.com


SPECIAL NEW YEAR PRESENTATION FOR THE FAMILY!
OPENS TOMORROW !
MTRCB RATING ▶PG-13 PARENTS CAUTIONED AGAINST BRINGING CHILDREN BELOW 10 YRS OLD DUE TO HARD ACTION SCENES
STEPHEN CHOW
Being a good guy is harder than it looks.
功夫
KUNG FU HUSTLE
COLUMBIA PICTURES
Distributed by COLUMBIA PICTURES

Positive values for young viewers

From page A23

playing there. Ray realizes that building the field is really about a personal mystery he needs to solve, when he meets the father he never knew, and achieves inner peace.

Themes: Never letting go of your dreams. Learning to listen to your inner self. Getting your life in order so you can better face challenges. Loving someone enough to make his dream come true.

"Forrest Gump," directed by **Robert Zemeckis**, and starring **Tom Hanks**, **Sally Fields** and **Gary Sinise**. A retarded man learns more from each of his experiences than most people do in a lifetime. He finally gets his dream girl, but learns a lesson one more time when she dies, leaving him a son.

Themes: Realizing your special qualities. Learning life's wonderful message. Falling in love with someone at whatever you aim for.

"He Said, She Said," directed by **Ken Kwapis** and **Marissa Silver**, and starring **Elizabeth Perkins**, **Kevin Bacon** and **Sharon Stone**. An editor forces two young journalists to work together on the same column. The story weaves its way in and out of their lives from their respective perspectives. In time, they work out their differences and fall in love.

Themes: Realizing there are two sides to every story. Putting competitiveness aside, and being open. What to do when you're having problems letting go of friends. And meeting someone halfway.

From the themes cited in these films, it's clear that good movies do have a lot to say to and touch young viewers! Parents, take note.

"FORREST Gump" with Tom Hanks and Robin Wright Penn

"FIELD of Dreams" with Kevin Costner

On Cartoon Network

FRIDAYS at 6 p.m. starting Jan. 7, Cartoon Network telecasts the new show, "Duck Dodgers," which is set in the 24th century. Weekends at 5 p.m., "X-Men Evolution" presents new episodes.

Weekends at 9 a.m. starting Jan. 9, "Forster's Home for Imaginary Friends" presents the zany adventures of Mac, Bloo and the rest of the gang.

Also starting Jan. 9, Sundays at 7 p.m., "Megas XLR" topbills young heroes Coop, Jamie and Kia in new adventures.

'A Very Long Engagement'

THREE years after their triumph with "Amelie," star **Audrey Tautou** and director **Jean-Piere Jeunet** have again teamed up in "A Very Long Engagement." The film is based on a novel about a young Frenchwoman who searches for her missing fiance, a soldier, in the World War I trenches.

Costing $58 million, the film is France's second most expensive film ever, after "Asterix and Obelix: Mission Cleopatra" in 2002.

Screen International has described "A Very Long Engagement" as "a flamboyant mixture of battlefront spectacle, homefront romance, revenge drama and detective story."

eric quizon
tonton gutierrez nova vila cogie domingo and gloria diaz
introducing jay-r
jennylyn mercado mark herras and yasmien kurdi rainier castillo
kris aquino
so... happy together
a film by JOEL LAMANGAN, dgpi
Special Participation
carlo maceda paolo paraiso richard quan clint pijuan jon romano douglas robinson
Text HAPPY to 239
NOW SHOWING
REGAL ENTERTAINMENT INC. www.regal-sohappytogether.com mercury imanila
OFFICIAL ENTRY TO THE METRO MANILA FILM FESTIVAL 2004
MTRCB RATING ▸ PG 13

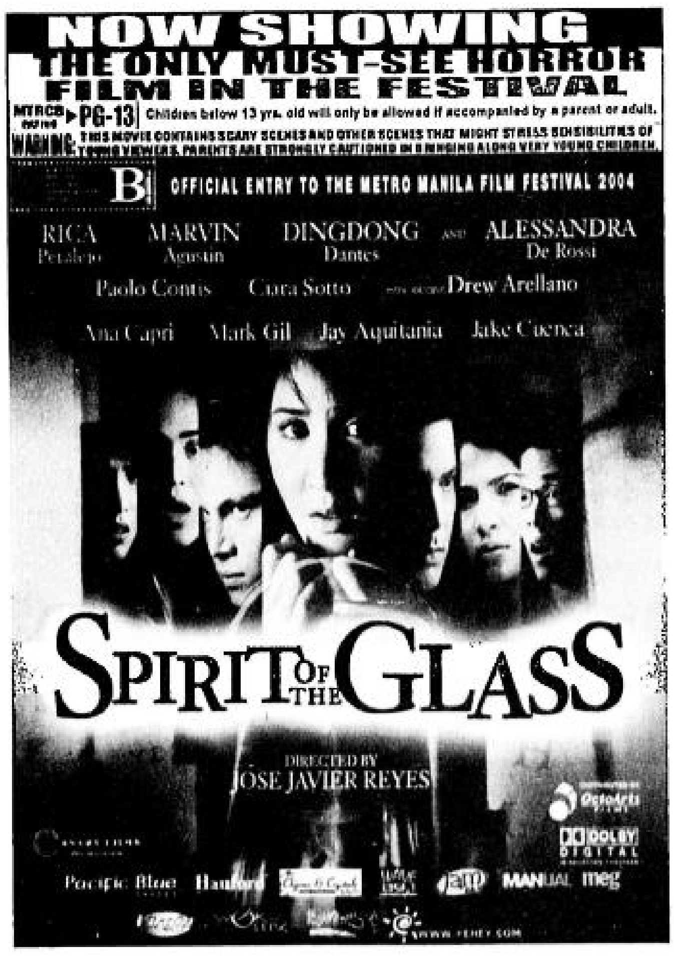
MTRCB RATING G ALL AGES ARE ADMITTED
BEST PICTURE
BEST ACTRESS - Vilma Santos
BEST ACTOR - Christopher de Leon
BEST STORY
BEST PRODUCTION DESIGN
BEST THEME SONG - "PAGBIGYAN ANG PUSO KO"
sung by Karylle & Jerome John Hughes
VILMA SANTOS CHRISTOPHER DE LEON
SHERYL CRUZ JAY MANALO and EDDIE GARCIA
PATRICK GARCIA ANGEL LOCSIN ANGELICA PANGANIBAN JOHN PRATS CARLO AQUINO
BOOTS ANSON-ROA JEAN GARCIA KARYLLE DENNIS TRILLO
我的愛 MANO PO III MY LOVE
a film by JOEL LAMANGAN, DGPI
NOW SHOWING
MAQ PRODUCTIONS INC.
Text manopo3 to 2346
mercury www.regal-manopo3.com Globe imanila DOLBY
ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK NOW AVAILABLE FROM UNIVERSAL RECORDS
OFFICIAL ENTRY TO THE METRO MANILA FILM FESTIVAL 2004

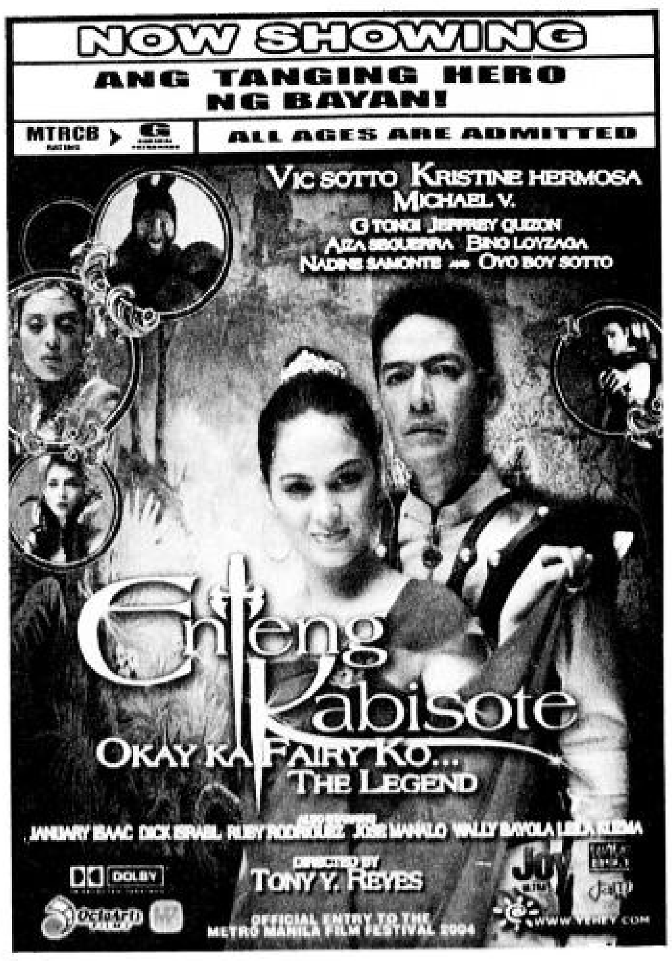
OPENS JANUARY 12, 2005 MTRCB R-13
Not since "Notting Hill" has there been a Romantic Comedy this sweet, sexy and funny!
KATRIN WEISSER TIM WILLIAMS SANDRA LEONHARD
in search of an impotent man
GABY HAUPTMANN
LAUTERBACH BACH BONING
then call me.
Seeking impotent man
Fairly attractive woman in
…ties is seeking
…t with, for adv
…hip.
…s: Intelligen

PINU-PURI! PINAG-UUSAPAN! PALABAN SA TAKILYA!
MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
3RD BEST PICTURE
BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR - Dennis Trillo
GENDER SENSITIVITY AWARD
RAYMART SANTIAGO JAY MANALO DENNIS TRILLO
ANITA LINDA MS. JACLYN JOSE ANGELU DE LEON TJ TRINIDAD IYA VILLANIA MARCO ALCARAZ YASMIEN KURDI
AND JUDY ANN SANTOS
AISHITE IMASU MAHAL KITA
a film by JOEL LAMANGAN, DGPI
1 9 4 1
NOW SHOWING Text 1941 to 2346
www.regal-aishiteimasu.com
Globe mercury imanila
OFFICIAL ENTRY TO THE METRO MANILA FILM FESTIVAL 2004

WALANG TATALO SA TAKUTAN! WALANG URUNGAN SA MULTUHAN!
ANG PINAKA NAKAKAKILABOT AT PINAKA NAKAKATAKOT NA PELIKULA NGAYON!
PANOORIN NA'T HANDANG SUMIGAWWWWWWWW!
BEST EDITING
BEST SOUND DESIGN
BEST CHILD PERFORMER - Ella Guevara
jomari yllana
james blanco iza calzado
richard gutierrez angel locsin
SIGAW
pelikula ni yam laranas
ronnie lazaro ella guevara
Certified na nakakatakot na Box Office Hit na pelikula ngayon!
Text SIGAW to 2346
NOW SHOWING
Line Produced by REGAL ENTERTAINMENT INC. for MEGAVISION FILMS, INC.
Globe mercury imanila www.regal-sigaw.com DOLBY DIGITAL
OFFICIAL ENTRY TO THE METRO MANILA FILM FESTIVAL 2004
MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

MTRCB ▸ G ALL AGES ADMITTED
SIGAW NG SAMBAYANAN, LASTIKMAN ANG NO. 1 SUPERHERO NG BAYAN!
JOHN ESTRADA DANILO BARRIOS
ELIZABETH OROPESA JOEL TORRE MARK GIL BEARWIN MEILY
TUESDAY VARGAS MIKEL CAMPOS
AND CHERIE GIL AS LASTIKA
SARAH GERONIMO
MARK BAUTISTA
MARS RAVELO'S LASTIKMAN UNANG BANAT
Directed by MAC C. ALEJANDRE NOW SHOWING VIVA
MMFF 2004 ENTRY


NOW SHOWING
THE ONLY MUST-SEE HORROR FILM IN THE FESTIVAL
MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
WARNING: THIS MOVIE CONTAINS SCARY SCENES AND OTHER SCENES THAT MIGHT STRESS SENSIBILITIES OF YOUNG VIEWERS. PARENTS ARE STRONGLY CAUTIONED IN BRINGING ALONG VERY YOUNG CHILDREN.
OFFICIAL ENTRY TO THE METRO MANILA FILM FESTIVAL 2004
RICA PERALEJO MARVIN AGUSTIN DINGDONG DANTES and ALESSANDRA DE ROSSI
Paolo Contis Ciara Sotto Drew Arellano
Ana Capri Mark Gil Jay Aquitania Jake Cuenca
SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
DIRECTED BY JOSE JAVIER REYES
DOLBY DIGITAL
Pacific Blue Hanford MANUAL meg
WWW.YEHEY.COM


NOW SHOWING
ANG TANGING HERO NG BAYAN!
MTRCB ▸ G ALL AGES ARE ADMITTED
VIC SOTTO KRISTINE HERMOSA
MICHAEL V.
G TONGI JEFFREY QUIZON
AIZA SEGUERRA BING LOYZAGA
NADINE SAMONTE and OYO BOY SOTTO
ENTENG KABISOTE OKAY KA FAIRY KO... THE LEGEND
JANUARY ISAAC DICK ISRAEL RUBY RODRIGUEZ JOSE MANALO WALLY BAYOLA LEILA KUZMA
DIRECTED BY TONY Y. REYES
DOLBY
OFFICIAL ENTRY TO THE METRO MANILA FILM FESTIVAL 2004
WWW.YEHEY.COM

Producers: We'll keep on...

From page A26

There is also no relying on the local market to support even movies that have been rated A and B, Tan observed.

"Take the case of 'Minsan Pa,' which is a very good film, but which the market did not watch," he said. "That's very sad. The market dictates what movies we would produce, and if they're not supporting superior movies, where would we go?"

Del Rosario believes that market segments no longer exist.

"You should target the whole market," he said. "*Wala nang bakya, wala nang* class (There's no longer the class or *bakya* market). Like Korean films. These movies have cut across boarders and even gone outside Korea.

"In developing a local market for local movies, producers should rely not only on big stars but a good script, a strong concept, and strong execution. This is the only way that we could elevate the appreciation of the local market for local films.

"People are sick of formula."

But there's no second-guessing the market, according to Gloria, who admitted that "Santa Santita" was not a theatrical success.

(Concluded tomorrow)

GMA taking steps...

From page A26

the show biz insider said. "The Sound Stage will not be finished overnight, but it represents the commitment of this government to help the film industry. And that already is an accomplishment."

The government did not give incentives to this year's Metro Manila Film Festival, as it had in the past. But the President's people have promised that as soon as the fiscal situation improves, perhaps as early as the middle of this new year, more projects benefiting the entertainment sector will be launched the following year.

A Malacañang insider said the President has been asking the Optical Media Board (OMB) through its chair, actor/host Edu Manzano, for updates on the campaign against video piracy.

"Ms Macapagal-Arroyo wants to know how the campaign is going, and if the OMB needs a bigger budget to make the campaign more effective," the insider said.

Intellectual piracy has been one of the problems long plaguing Philippine movie producers, who lose millions of pesos because their films are illegally copied and sold long before they are shown in theaters.

The problem has grown bigger. Pirated DVDs, VCDs and CDs produced in Malaysia and Indonesia are smuggled into the country in huge quantities. OMB agents are therefore closely watching seaports and airports.

President Macapagal-Arroyo is also fully supporting the Film Development Council, headed by filmmaker Laurice Guillen. The council's film rating arm, the Cinema Evaluation Board (CEB), screens films for music, screenplay, direction, editing and other cinematic aspects to determine those that merit tax rebates.

Films given an A rating get a 100-percent rebate, while those with a B rating get 65-percent rebate.

MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa, Laguna) tel (049) 837.0926
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 (DTS) RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 SIGAW
2 (DTS) ENTENG KABISOTE
3 (DOLBY) MANO PO - 3
4 LASTIKMAN

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
1 MANO PO - 3
2 (DOLBY) ENTENG KABISOTE
3 (DTS) LASTIKMAN
4 SIGAW

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 MANO PO - 3
2 ENTENG KABISOTE
3 (DOLBY) SIGAW

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) MONO PO
2 ENTENG KABISOTE
3 (DTS) LASTIKMAN
4 SIGAW
5

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283
1 AISHITE IMASU 1941
2 LASTIKMAN
3 (DTS) MANO PO - 3
4 (DOLBY) ENTENG KABISOTE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 MANO PO - 3
2 ENTENG KABISOTE
3 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
4 LASTIKMAN

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 LASTIKMAN
2 ENTENG KABISOTE
3 (DOLBY) SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
4 (DTS) MANO PO - 3

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) ENTENG KABISOTE
2 SIGAW
3 (DTS ES) MANO PO
4 LASTIKMAN

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121
1 MONO PO
2 ENTENG KABISOTE
3 (DOLBY) LASTIKMAN
4 (DTS) HAPPY TOGETHER

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489
1 MONO PO
2 ENTENG KABISOTE
3 (DOLBY) LASTIKMAN
4 (DTS) HAPPY TOGETHER

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 SKY CAPTAIN
2 SHARK TALE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 7953320
1 ENTENG KABISOTE
2 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
3 (DOLBY) MANO PO - 3

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

MOVIEWORLD

CINEMA ACCESS
635-5555
FOR ALL BRANCHES

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

• REGIONAL CINEMAS •

STA. ROSA (049) 837-0907
1 ENTENG KABISOTE
2 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
3 LASTIKMAN
4 SIGAW
5 MANO PO 3

LIPA (043) 757-3664 (043) 312-5870
1 MANO PO 3
2 ENTENG KABISOTE
3 SIGAW
4 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
5 LASTIKMAN

DASMARIÑAS (046) 852-2125 (046) 416-4332
1 SO...HAPPY TOGETHER
2 PANAGHOY SA SUBA
3 SIGAW
4 AISHITE IMASU
5 LASTIKMAN

ANGELES (045) 892-2348
1 SIGAW
2 LASTIKMAN
3 SO...HAPPY TOGETHER
4 MANO PO 3

IMUS (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188
1 MANO PO 3
2 ENTENG KABISOTE
3 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
4 PANAGHOY SA SUBA
5 SO...HAPPY TOGETHER
6 LASTIKMAN

STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (045) 901-5270
1 SIGAW
2 AISHITE IMASU
3 LASTIKMAN
4 SO...HAPPY TOGETHER
5 PANAGHOY SA SUBA
6 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 (034) 441-0450
1 MANO PO 3
2 LASTIKMAN
3 ENTENG KABISOTE
4 SIGAW
5 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
6 PANAGHOY SA SUBA

ILOILO (033) 336-8070
1 MANO PO 3
2 LASTIKMAN
3 ENTENG KABISOTE
4 SIGAW
5 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
6 PANAGHOY SA SUBA

MOVIE PASS
MOVIE PASS
MOVIE PASS
PASS

The Perfect Gift All Year Round
A Pre Paid Movie Pass to the Hottest Seats in town.
Get Special discounts for volume purchases!
For marketing and events/reservations please call:
Marketing Services Department at 687-7945 to 47 locals 14 and 15

Seeèmall!

AYALA CINEMAS THX
Movies/schedules may change without prior notice. For verification call 729-7777

ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU
1 MANO PO 3	1 MANO PO 3	1 LASTIKMAN	1 MANO PO 3	GUARANTEED SEATS 1 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS	1 HAPPY TOGETHER
2 ENTENG KABISOTE	2 ENTENG KABISOTE	2 SIGAW	2 HAPPY TOGETHER	GUARANTEED SEATS 2 MANO PO 3	2 ENTENG KABISOTE
3 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS	3 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 ENTENG KABISOTE		GUARANTEED SEATS 3 ENTENG KABISOTE	3 SIGAW
4 HAPPY TOGETHER	4 HAPPY TOGETHER	4 PANAGHOY SA SUBA		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 HAPPY TOGETHER	4 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
5 AISHITE IMASU		5 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS		GUARANTEED SEATS 5 SIGAW	5 MANO PO 3
		6 HAPPY TOGETHER			
		7 AISHITE IMASU			

At the Activity Center

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	AYALA CENTER CEBU
ANSON'S APPLIANCE FAIR January 10 to 25, 2005	BUHAY WIRELESS TOUR January 8 to 9, 2005	LAUNCHING OF STO. NIÑO EXHIBIT January 7, 2005

ENTERTAINMENT LIVE!

GREENBELT 2	GREENBELT 3

stage
REPERTORY PHILIPPINES presents OH ROMEO at REP's GLOBE THEATER - January 14 to 30, 2005

Ayala MUSEUM
Visit the New Ayala Museum located beside Greenbelt 4 along Makati Avenue.
For inquiries, please call 757-7117.

Imagine this.
Bringing your friends to an intimate gathering in a THX standard cinema with a sophisticated lounge area executed by the same interior design team of the posh Greenbelt 3 Residences.
You may call it

mycinema

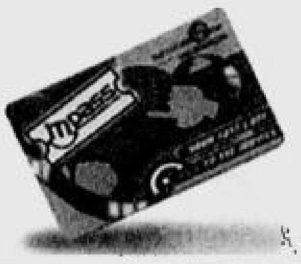
Perfect for intimate parties, exclusive launches, corporate events and other types of private functions. Ayala Cinemas brings you the country's one and only private cinema. Now it can be yours.
For Inquiries, please call 752 7862 or 757 3860 to 62

For movie screening schedules, call the Ayala Cinema Links:

AYALA CINEMAS
AYALA MALLS Lovemall!

No more waiting in line!
Purchase your tickets online using cash or credit!

MPASS the country's first and only online prepaid ticketing system that allows you to purchase tickets online in just 3 easy steps!



1. BUY CREDITS at the Greenbelt 3 Sureseats Cinema Counter.
2. LOAD ACCOUNT online when you log on to www.sureseats.com
3. WATCH A MOVIE no need to claim tickets 45 minutes ahead of time.

CUSTOMER SERVICE TEXT HOTLINE: 0917-6095900 • CUSTOMER SERVICE HOTLINE: Glorietta - 752-7272; from 10am to 8pm • Greenbelt - 757-4853; from 11am to 12mn • Alabang Town Center - 842-2782; from 10am to 8pm Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231-5342 loc 324 • AYALA CINEMA LINKS: For screening times call 729-7777. Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart). Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

AYALA CENTER · ALABANG TOWN · AYALA CENTER CEBU · Lovemall!

ENTERTAINMENT

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Louie C. Camino
Assistant Editor Emmie G. Velarde

Text us your feedback: inquirer ent name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Producers: We'll keep on making movies

(First of two parts)

By Nini Valera

VIC del Rosario of Viva Films thinks this year will be the coming of age of films that tell tales from a thinking man's perspective.

Lily Monteverde of Regal Films looks at the bottom line and her batting average as her gauge for success in a movie industry that refuses to rise from the dead.

Tony Gloria of Unitel takes calculated risks and uses new technology in his search for the ultimate movie.

Orly Ilacad of OctoArts dabbles in tried and tested genres and makes movies only for the yearend festival.

Robby Tan of Seiko Films sets his sights on the foreign market to get ahead with his local productions.

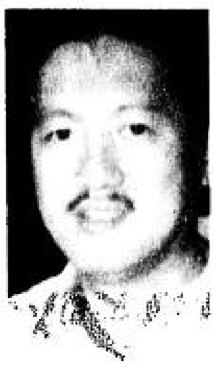
Call it fighting spirit. But these plucky producers, who have managed to remain afloat in these desperate times for local movies, are pulling ideas from out-of-the-box that hopefully would resuscitate the Filipino movie industry this year.

With only about 55 movies produced last year, these veterans are not giving up their stake in the business without a fight. They're here, they say, for the long haul.

"There's nothing much I can do if the industry is down," said Del Rosario, who admits that 2004 was a bad year for his Viva Films. "I believe it's cyclical, like the recording industry. For a spell, Original Pilipino Music was down, but it has made a strong comeback."

DEL ROSARIO

MONTEVERDE


TAN

ILACAD

Everyone's complaining

But more than a comeback, it's a return of investment that producers are hoping for. As Regal Entertainment's Lily Monteverde said, "It's the bottom line that counts."

In her tearful acceptance speech for the Best Film Award for "Mano Po 3" in the 2004 Metro Manila Film Festival last Dec. 29, Monteverde claimed that she's no longer making money in film productions. But she keeps on making films because "I've retained my batting average."

"Of course, *wala namang* business *sa Pilipinas na hindi mahirap," she told* INQUIRER *Entertainment. "Halos lahat, umaangal, hindi lang ako* (There's no business that is not undergoing bad times. Everybody's complaining, not only me)."

OctoArts' Ilacad goes the whole nine yards only during the festival season.

"Christmas is the only time we do not compete with foreign films," he said. "It's the time when people have excess money. You can't release a movie if people have no budget to watch a movie. You're timing is bad. It's only during this season when you can hopefully make a big budget movie, get back your investment and make a little money.

"Much as we want to do something during the rest of the months of the year, we still need to look at the economic situation."

GLORIA

Stars and their money

For Unitel's Gloria, it's spreading the filmmaking risk to more people who might make a difference to the movie industry.

"That's the only way to go," Gloria said. "I think that we in the industry know that that is a very important element now. More big stars are willing to enter into deals that don't just call for an outright talent fee. They're willing to listen to other ways of getting into a film project, like receiving their fee after the movie is shown, opting for a percentage from gross earnings of the movie instead of an outright fee. Some stars are even putting money into the film."

He said Robin Padilla has taken this tack with the yet to be released "Pasyon," which Mark Meily directs.

The foreign market, yet untapped, is a source of revenue for local films, according to Seiko's Tan.

"We're trying to interest the international market since the local movie industry is really a dead man walking," he said. "We have no choice but to look at the foreign market and develop projects that would be accepted, and, hopefully, we could make a breakthrough.

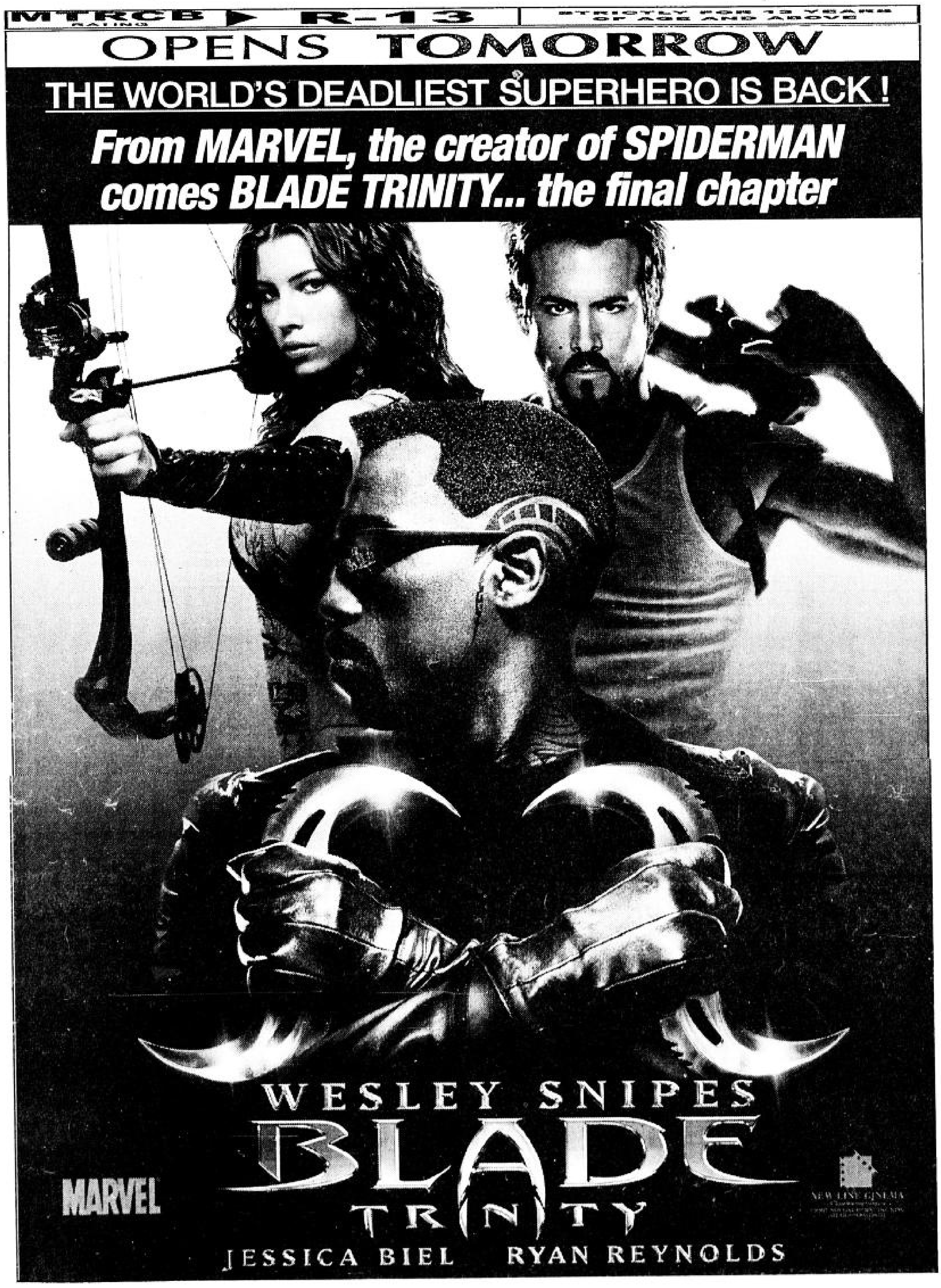
"Hopefully, we would be able to make a film that would be accepted in the international market commercially. So far, what is being produced locally now is being shown only in festival circles abroad."

PRODUCERS/ A25

Ms. Ellen Lising and her dauhter Janiee Lising

Have problem with
dark face, nape, underarm, elbow, groin and knees?
Miracle Whitening Cream
Whiter skin in just one week!

Try, See and Experience
the difference of the latest
laser Hair Removal
ARMS ✦MUSTACHE ✦UNDERARM ✦BIKINILINES ✦LEGS
at
Ellen's AESTHETIC CENTER
TIMOG: 413-3375 LIBIS: 438-8072 WEST: 413-6357



MTRCB RATING ▶ R-13 "STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE"

OPENS TOMORROW

THE WORLD'S DEADLIEST SUPERHERO IS BACK !

From MARVEL, the creator of SPIDERMAN comes BLADE TRINITY... the final chapter

WESLEY SNIPES
BLADE TRINITY
JESSICA BIEL RYAN REYNOLDS

MARVEL

NEW LINE CINEMA

'GMA taking steps to help industry, leaders say

By Melanie Santos
Contributor

CERTAIN movie industry leaders think President Macapagal-Arroyo, as she had promised, has started to take steps to inject new life into the business that many people insist on pronouncing as "dying."

President Macapagal-Arroyo's representatives are known to have begun to sound out movie industry leaders to determine how the government can help. Several projects have been lined up, the most promising of which is the establishment of the Sound Stage in Subic, noted one industry leader.

The Sound Stage is envisioned as a complete movie production facility capable of doing work from pre-production to dubbing to editing, that will give even small producers the chance to come up with quality films without spending a gigantic sum.

When she ran in last May's elections, Ms Macapagal-Arroyo pledged to help get the movie industry back on its feet.

"The important thing is that the President has a plan, and she wants it implemented,"

'GMA/ A25

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2005
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BUSINESS
Text us your feedback: inquirer biz name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)
E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inq7money.net
Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

The Only multimedia projector with built-in document camera
PROJECTS 3-D IMAGES & MOVING OBJECTS
TOSHIBA
PRESENTATION Solution CENTER
Sales Rentals Service
TELS. 723-1356 / 727-6973 / 723-6138 / 723-6890

4 groups seen bidding for MRT-3 extension

By Abigail L. Ho

THREE foreign and one local groups have expressed "serious interest" in bidding for the much-delayed Edsa Metro Rail Transit 3 (MRT-3) extension project.

Robert Castañares, assistant transportation secretary and chair of the rail bids and awards committee, said these firms had indicated strong interest in joining the open bidding for the project, which had been declared a priority project by the National Economic and Development Authority.

The prospective local bidder, according to MRT-3 general manager Roberto Lastimoso, was FF Cruz & Co., one of the biggest construction firms in the country.

He said earlier that FF Cruz subsidiary Fil Systems Corp. submitted a proposal to the Department of Transportation and Communications to build the 5.1-kilometer railway extension project for $230 million.

The railway extension project, which would link the MRT-3 to the Light Rail Transit Line 1 and complete the metro railway loop, had been shelved for more than two years as a debate ensued on how the project should be undertaken.

MRT-3 contractor Metro Rail Transit Corp. said that, under its contract for the existing MRT-3 line, it should also be the one to implement the 3-station extension project.

However, separate Department of Justice opinions penned by Justice Secretaries Simeon Datumanong and Mercedita Gutierrez stated that the project should be subjected to an open bidding procedure.

On orders from President Macapagal-Arroyo herself, Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza said the much derailed MRT-3 extension project would be implemented as soon as possible.

Once completed, the MRT-3 extension will extend the existing MRT-3 line to Monumento in Caloocan from the current end-station at North Avenue in Quezon City.

This will then link the MRT-3 system to the LRT Line 1 via the Monumento Station, making rail travel easier for consumers.

The existing MRT-3 is also linked to the LRT Line 2, which runs from Santolan in Pasig to Recto in Manila, via the two railway systems' respective Cubao stations.

The LRT Line 1 will also be linked to the LRT Line 2 via the Doroteo Jose station.

According to DOTC estimates, commuter traffic on the entire MRT-3 system will rise to 684,000 a day from the current 400,00 a day.

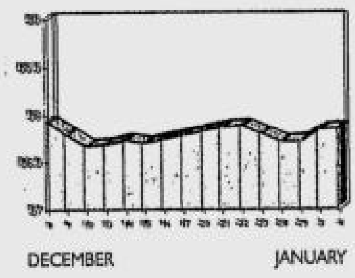
To meet this spike in ridership, 95 light rail vehicles would be added to the MRT-3 line.

While providing ease of travel to commuters, the metro railway loop is also seen to cut road traffic congestion by as much as 50 percent.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE



₱ 56.145 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., Jan. 4, 2005

¥ 102.56 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., Dec. 30, 2004

GOLD: $ 428.00-428.50
per ounce Hong Kong, Jan. 4, 2005

January 4, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.742721	1.000000	56.1990
Japan	Yen	0.007231	0.009736	0.5472
United Kingdom	Pound	1.414513	1.904500	107.0310
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.095498	0.128579	7.2260
Switzerland	Franc	0.646801	0.870853	48.9411
Canada	Dollar	0.615243	0.828363	46.5532
Singapore	Dollar	0.452934	0.609830	34.2718
Australia	Dollar	0.578218	0.778513	43.7517
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.970135	2.652590	149.0729
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.198059	0.266667	14.9864
Brunei	Dollar	0.451557	0.607977	34.1677
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000080	0.000108	0.0061
Thailand	Baht	0.019103	0.025720	1.4454
UAE	Dirham	0.202250	0.272309	15.3035
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.346400	75.6663
Argentina	Peso	0.250706	0.337553	18.9701
Brazil	Real	0.278434	0.374883	21.0680
Denmark	Kroner	0.134483	0.181068	10.1758
India	Rupee	0.017133	0.023068	1.2964
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.195479	0.263193	14.7912
Mexico	New Peso	0.066152	0.089067	5.0055
New Zealand	Dollar	0.530137	0.713776	40.1135
South Africa	Rand	0.131513	0.177069	9.9511
Korea	Won	0.000716	0.000964	0.0542
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023342	0.031427	1.7662

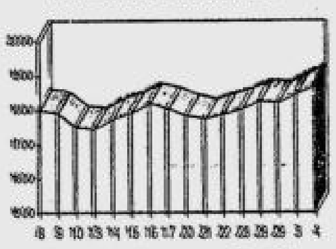
STOCK MARKET

Shares rise as fiscal reform boosts confidence

SHARES closed at their highest level in nearly five years yesterday, buoyed by the government's efforts to pursue badly needed tax reforms, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index gained 26.17 points, or 1.4 percent, to close at 1,873.07—its highest since Feb. 18, 2000, when the market closed at 1,884.20.

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B3)

The main index rose 24.07 points to 1,846.90 on Monday, the first trading day for 2005.

Traders said a robust economic outlook and relief that the country was spared from the tsunami devastation were also underpinning the further advance of the Manila bourse, which was one of the best performers in

SHARES/ B3

Gov't eyes VAT on newspapers

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance wants to lift the value-added tax exemption enjoyed by newspaper publications, saying it does not see any reason why they have been VAT-exempt in the first place.

"Their exemption was supposedly in recognition of the concept of freedom of the press, but they are already paying income tax. Besides, we want to treat all sectors fairly," Finance Undersecretary Emanuel Bonoan said in a briefing.

Bonoan said the proposal to lift the VAT exemption of newspaper publications would be included in the DOF's proposed bill that seeks to remove the VAT exemptions of several products and services.

Currently, the bill proposes to impose VAT on the following VAT-exempt activities: legal services; sale or importation of coal, natural gas, and petroleum products; sale or importation of raw materials for petroleum products; importation of passenger and/or cargo vessels of more than 5,000 tons; sale and importation by cooperatives, and sale and importation of printing and publication books.

Bonoan said newspaper publications should be treated in the same manner as publication books, and should therefore have their VAT exemption removed as well.

The DOF is being criticized for trying to impose a VAT on books because the move could increase the cost of education in the country. The DOF, however, maintained that the various VAT exemptions in the country were largely to blame for the government's weak efficiency in the collection of the said tax.

"They say education will be adversely affected by the tax, but we don't see how it is true. The money we will collect from VAT on the sale of books can be used to improve the quality of education," Bonoan said.

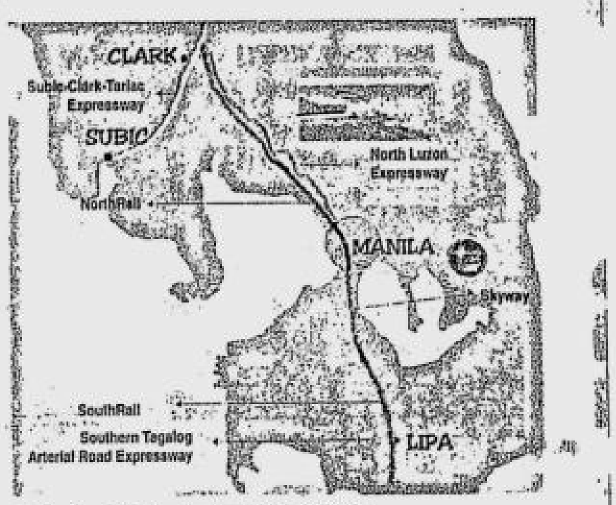
Aside from lifting VAT exemptions of several products and services, the DOF is also pushing for an increase in the VAT rate from

GOV'T/ B3

INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

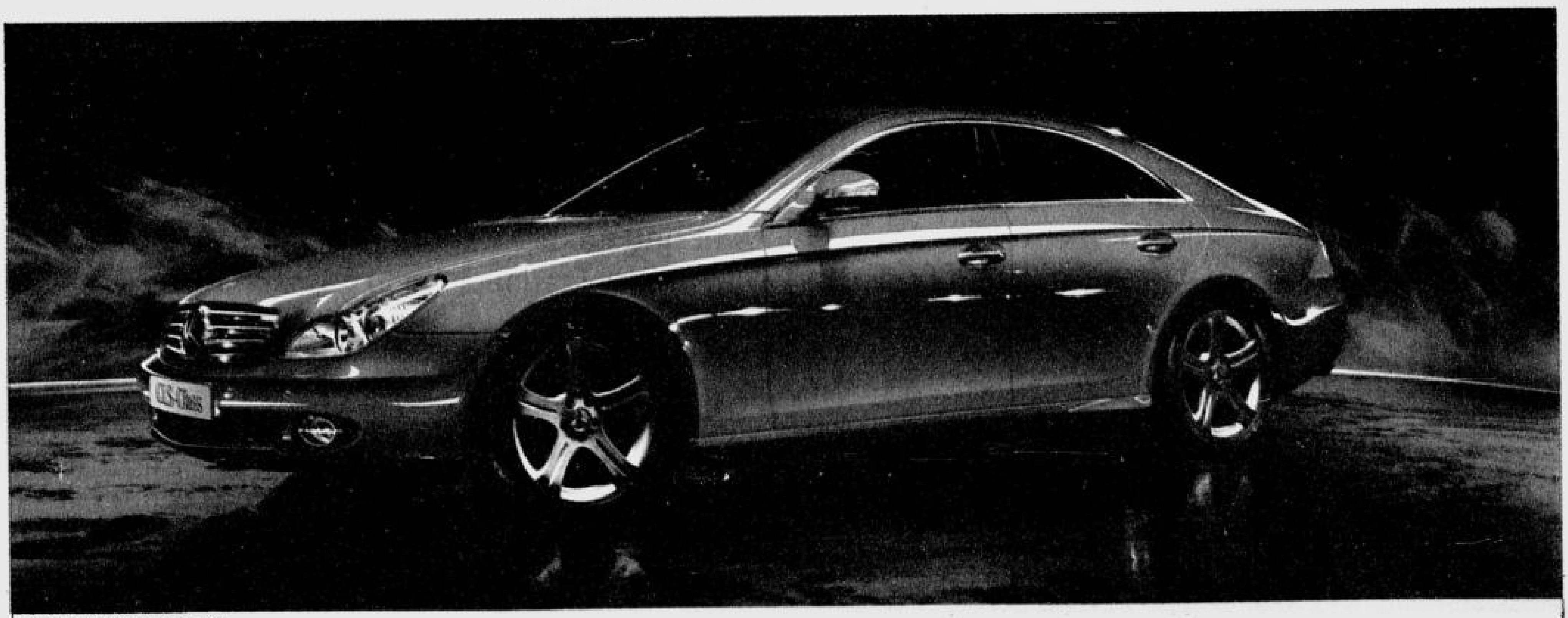
Decongesting Metro Manila & spreading development


CLARK
Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway
SUBIC
North Luzon Expressway
NorthRail
MANILA
Skyway
SouthRail
Southern Tagalog Arterial Road Expressway
LIPA

Source: Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan, 2004-2010

GOVERNMENT sees the need to provide new opportunities of growth in other regions to decongest Metro Manila. And part of this administration's medium-term plan is to put in place efficient transport systems to speed up traffic going out of the metro. Among the priority projects are: Skyway extension from Bicutan to Alabang, Manila-Cavite Expressways, North Luzon Expressway, MacArthur Highway widening, Marcos Highway to Antipolo, the Northrail and Southrail and the Southern Tagalog Arterial Road Expressway.

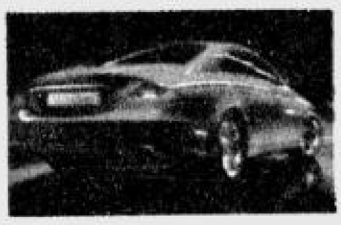
Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research



Actual car unit may vary from photo

One fantasy that won't cost you your marriage.

The new Mercedes-Benz CLS. The art of seduction.



► Just one look and it will capture your imagination. Is it love at first sight? Is it the sensuous curves? Maybe it's the blending of a sports coupé with the comfort of a 4-door sedan. Probably the allure of a V6 engine driven by 7G-Tronic, the world's first 7-speed automatic transmission. Even the speed will sweep you off your feet, 100 km/h in 7.1 seconds. Listen to your heart, call your Mercedes-Benz dealer now.

Mercedes-Benz

CATS

CATS Motors, Inc. Global City - 32nd St. cor Rizal Drive, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, Metro Manila Tel.: 815-7777 Fax: 815-9153
CATS Motors, Inc. Greenhills 1008 EDSA Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila Tel.: 723-5808 Fax: 726-7741
Email: mercedesbenz@cats.com.ph Website: www.cats.com.ph

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

It's About Time to be the HEAD of the
MARKETING DEPARTMENT...!

AN OPEN INVITATION... TO A VERY LUCRATIVE CAREER..!

TO: The Most EXPERIENCED DIRECTOR
of SALES & MARKETING :

For more than 15 years, HIMEX Corporation takes the lead in providing high-quality HITACHI Medical Equipments and Supplies (e.g. MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING (MRI) Systems ; CT-SCANNERS ; ULTRASOUND ; X-RAY Systems ; among others). HIMEX, in partnership with Hitachi Medical Corporation in Tokyo, Japan and Hitachi Medical System(s) PTE., LTD in Singapore - still believed in the growing potential of the Philippine market for medical equipment and engineering services. With this vision, HIMEX is opening its doors to the industry's top-caliber HEAD of Sales and Marketing Department:

Male / Female / 35 to 45 yrs. old.
1.) Familiarity in all equipments, including its technical aspects.
2.) Has the ability and confidence to do product presentations.
3.) Has the ability to analyze and question specs of competitor during bidding.
4.) Has the ability to compile and consolidate documentations during bidding preparation.
5.) Has the ability to justify specs of Hitachi against competitor.
6.) Has the ability to meet the yearly sales target based on a 5-years plan.
7.) Has the ability to lead marketing force and close sales.
8.) Has ability to create ideas and facilitate demand in the market.
9.) Physically fit to travel frequently.

Other Position Open: PROJECT COORDINATOR / ASST. MANAGER
*** female / at least 35 years old.
*** has the ability to perform multiple tasks in assisting the executive vice-president***

Starting today, January 5 until January 14, 2005 from 9am to 5pm
Hand-carry your latest CV with recent photo to:
HIMEX Corporation, Unit 604, Prestige Tower, Emerald Ave.
Ortigas Complex . Tel. 632-7657 to 58 / 632-7664
Look for: Ms Weng Santos / 0910-4196060

ADB: RP rates poorly in SE Asia bond market study

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES has the poorest performing local currency bond market across East Asia, according to an Asian Development Bank study on bonds.

The bank's Asia Bond Monitor also indicated that the Philippine local currency bond market carried the largest bid-ask spread on bond transactions—both a cause and a consequence of low market liquidity.

As of the third quarter of 2004, the bid-ask spread of currency benchmark in the Philippines was at 30 basis points, compared to only 2.5 in Korea, 3.2 in Singapore, 4.3 in Malaysia, 6.3 in Thailand and 14.3 in Indonesia, the ADB study cited.

"Tight bid-ask spreads imply lower transaction costs, allowing investors to take an active approach in managing fixed-income portfolios, thereby helping to improve market liquidity," the study said.

On the other hand, large spreads lead to higher transaction costs and force investors to take a more passive approach to portfolio management, according to the study.

From 1997 to 2003, it said, the annual growth rate of the Philippine local currency bond market was pegged at 5.2 percent, hitting $25 billion or 31.6 percent of gross domestic product as of end-2003.

But in Thailand, the market grew by 35.2 percent, hitting $58.4 billion or 40.7 percent of GDP. Indonesia's market grew by 9.4 percent to reach $64.4 billion or 26.4 percent of GDP. China, Korea, Malaysia and Singapore likewise posted higher annual growths of 24.8 percent, 22.7 percent, 9.6 percent and 18.9 percent, respectively.

"As the role of contractual savings institutions in the region's capital markets has increased, the maturity of government bonds has become more important," the study said. "Pension and provident funds prefer long-term instruments for their investment portfolios, whereas mutual funds prefer short-term instruments."

Growth in electronics seen to drive up '05 exports

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE GROWING markets for electronics and related sectors are expected to drive up exports by 10 percent in 2005, according to the Philippine Exporters Confederation.

Sergio Ortiz-Luis, Philexport president, said the group expected that export growth for this year would be the same or even better than last year's.

Electronic products, valued at $193 billion, remained the top export earner with 66.7-percent share of the total revenues in the first three quarters, up 9.4 percent from $17.6 billion in the year-ago period.

"The electronics industry is showing the same prospects as last year," Ortiz-Luis said. "Other industries like auto parts and components, locally assembled vehicles and jewelry are showing better performance."

According to the Semiconductor and Electronics Industries of the Philippines Inc., electronics and semiconductor exports went up 9.3 percent in the first eight months to $16.8 billion from $15.4 billion in the same period in 2003.

Arthur Young, Seipi president, had said the group expected increased demand in the fourth quarter and that the industry was focused on achieving its target of 10-percent growth for the year.

"We do not expect the mining industry to start exporting this year but investments are expected to come in," Ortiz-Luis said. "That should boost the performance of the sector."

Co-ops to lose tax privileges

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT is poised to withdraw fiscal incentives granted to cooperatives in a bid to shore up drying financial resources.

Data from the Department of Finance and the National Tax Research Center showed that tax exemptions granted to cooperatives cost the government some P9.38 billion in lost revenue in 2003.

Some P4.9 billion was in the form of value-added tax (VAT) exemptions; P2.44 billion in income tax breaks; P1.8 billion in exemption from the 5-percent gross receipt tax, and P293 million in duty-free import privileges.

According to an official from the DOF, the Arroyo administration is pushing for the lifting of all incentives granted to cooperatives, explaining that their tax and duty exemptions are no longer practical given the government's precarious fiscal condition.

Cooperatives were granted several fiscal incentives on grounds that these firms were non-profit and served the interest of their members.

"But even schools are paying taxes, so why shouldn't they?" said the finance official.

The lifting of the income tax exemption and duty-free privilege of cooperatives is provided in the bill rationalizing fiscal incentives granted under special laws.

For the first half of 2004 alone, foregone VAT collections from cooperatives reached P1.4 billion.

About P1 billion was extended to credit cooperatives.

DEPARTMENT OF
TRADE & INDUSTRY
PHILIPPINES

28 December 2004

GTEB Memorandum Circular No. 028-04

Subject : Notice to All Garment and Textile Exporters
Re 2005 Export and Import Transactions

Starting 1 January 2005, exports of garments and textiles will follow the normal export procedures for all other sectors in line with the elimination of all garments and textile quotas under the WTO.

Therefore, all quota-related documentation such as textile export clearance (TEC), Export Licence/Certificate of Origin (EL/CO), Special Export License (SEL) and Textile Visa, that were previously secured from the Garments and Textile Export Board (GTEB) will no longer be required for 2005 export shipments.

Garments and textile exporters will be assisted by the DTI Bureau of Export Trade Promotion-Export Assistance Network (BETP-EXPONET) on matters pertaining to export documentation and facilitation of 2005 export shipments.

As announced in an earlier GTEB circular, post-shipment documentation for year-end 2004 export shipments will still be processed in the GTEB offices, 3rd floor New Solid Bldg. Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City.

Import-related documentation, such as import licensing, BMW licensing/renewal, and subcontractor accreditation and registration, will continue to be processed at the DTI-GTEB offices, 3rd floor New Solid Bldg., until such time that these functions are devolved to the proper DTI agency or bureau.

For information and guidance.

(Sgd) **SERAFIN N. JULIANO**
Executive Director

Yuletide coup at Unilab

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

AILING taipan Jose Yao Campos has granted the firstborn rights of his daughter, Joy, to take over the helm of the sprawling Unilab Group and replace current chair and CEO, second child and eldest son Jose Jr.

According to the grapevine, the succession issue was settled during an emotional family meeting during the Yuletide break, the results of which had already been privately communicated to the top Unilab officers.

Joy will formally take over the United Laboratories Philippine and overseas operations after the Chinese New Year.

Jose Jr., who was said to be unhappy with the patriarch's decision, will instead focus on the real estate joint venture with the Ayalas in the Fort—his baby—as well as the UFC banana catsup empire.

Third and youngest child Jeffrey has been assigned to oversee the redevelopment of the family's Crossing mall at the corner of Edsa and Shaw Boulevard.

Also known as Joselito or Butch, Jose Jr. has been Unilab chair and CEO for less than a decade, which saw the country's largest and one of the region's biggest drug companies aggressively expand into generic drug manufacture as well as branded feminine care products.

Its 44-hectare Unilab Pharma campus in Biñan, inaugurated last year by President Macapagal-Arroyo, is set to become fully operational this year in time for the last phase of tariff reduction in the Asean free trade zone and the regulatory harmonization of rules regarding regional marketing and production of pharmaceutical products.

Little is publicly known about Joy. The little anecdotal information gathered from people who claim to know her characterize the incoming Unilab CEO as "sharp" and "driven," as well as having led an interesting romantic life.

She is said to have a son now working at the Unilab purchasing department.

Last order for Le Soufflé

THE ORTIGAS district is losing its lone fine dining, non-hotel-based restaurant.

Le Soufflé is closing its Ortigas branch after five years of operation, a victim, like many in the trade, of stratospheric rent.

According to the grapevine, the landlord wants a 10 percent increase this year, on top of the P534,000 monthly rent Le Soufflé is now paying. In addition to the lease, Le Soufflé also shells out an average of P250,000 a month in electricity bill.

Chef-partner Jessie Sincioco told friends she really did not want to leave Ortigas, where she has built a loyal clientele among ADB executives, but the French restaurant has been unable to find a suitable ground floor, non-mall, non-hotel location near the Asian Development Bank headquarters.

In view of the impending closure, Le Soufflé has agreed to take over the operations of the Fernando's Restaurant in Rockwell, over the other side of the river through gridlocked Edsa, starting next month.

To thank its army of satisfied customers, the Ortigas branch is holding an all-day, all-you-can-eat buffet at friendly prices on Jan. 28, a Friday, its last day of operation.

Le Soufflé also has branches at the Fort and Citibank Makati, both of which are apparently still doing brisk business, thank you.

Clarifications and amplifications

- THE PLANNED Sinait (Ilocos Sur) high-end resort of Bonito Singson will not have a casino and Ilocos Norte Gov. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. as partner, contrary to a Monday item in this column.

Groundbreaking is scheduled later this month for an initial 30-room Mediterranean-style beachfront structure. The yet-unnamed Bonito resort is situated in a private cove, about 40 minutes' drive from Laoag airport, and is being planned to tap the Asian wedding and honeymooners' market.

- Resigned Philtown president Raul Martinez is not joining Philrealty per se, but a joint venture company with Philrealty as partner.

Heard through the grapevine

AN INTERNAL revolt over an alleged femme fatale is now roiling the legal department of San Miguel Corp.

(E-mail: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of January 4, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	27	27	27	27	155,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	52.5	54	52.5	53	2,206,700
China Banking Corp.	560	560	560	560	200
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	48	48.5	48	48.5	69,600
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.42	0.43	0.42	0.43	720,000
International Exch. Bank	16.75	16.75	16.75	16.75	268,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	26.5	27	26	26.5	631,000
Philippine National Bank	22.5	23	22.5	23	5,300
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	5,000
Security Bank Corp.	29.5	30.5	29.5	30.5	276,300
Union Bank of the Phil.	23.5	23.5	23.5	23.5	3,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	17,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	109	109	109	109	100
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	18.25	18.25	18.25	18.25	6,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.74	1.78	1.74	1.78	8,312,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	960	965	950	955	75,540
Ipeople Inc.	3.2	3.3	3.15	3.3	141,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	100,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.6	4,049,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1390	1395	1385	1390	151,960
Ivantage Corp.	0.64	0.64	0.63	0.64	1,080,000
Philweb Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.012	14,100,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	15.75	16.25	15.75	16	100,100
Manila Electric Co. B	25	27	25	26	1,969,200
Petron Corp.	3.2	3.25	3.2	3.25	2,546,000
Salcon Power Corp.	2.04	2.04	2.04	2.04	5,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.9	1,250,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	10,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	10,000
Union Cement Corp.	2	2.06	2	2.06	4,812,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.95	2.95	2.9	2.9	18,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	30.5	30.5	30.5	30.5	3,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	255,400
San Miguel Corp. A	58.5	59.5	58.5	59.5	127,000
San Miguel Corp. B	75	80	75	80	235,900
Vitarich Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	2,630,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	6.9	7.1	6.9	7	7,549,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.25	3.25	3.2	3.2	162,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.024	0.026	0.024	0.026	2,100,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.56	1.58	1.56	1.58	124,000
APC Group Inc.	0.0725	0.075	0.0725	0.075	1,300,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	31,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.68	1.68	1.68	1.68	15,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.85	0.85	0.79	0.79	70,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	16.75	16.75	16.75	16.75	5,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.7	0.72	0.7	0.7	13,010,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.14	0.15	0.14	0.145	520,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.21	0.23	0.21	0.22	1,500,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	200,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.7	3.75	3.7	3.75	3,054,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	4.7	5	4.7	5	9,586,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	31	32	31	32	1,056,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	1,700,000
House Of Investments Inc.	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	10,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.95	3.2	2.8	3.1	1,113,000
Macroasia Corp.	2.44	2.5	2.42	2.44	396,000
Medco Holdings	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	10,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.26	1.26	1.24	1.24	1,864,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.28	320,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.36	0.38	0.36	0.36	36,820,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.155	100,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	30,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.16	0.16	340,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.16	0.195	180,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	40,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.87	30,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0525	0.055	0.0525	0.055	1,000,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.6	0.61	0.6	0.6	1,340,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.99	70,000
Manila Jockey Club	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	11,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	10,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	18.5	18.5	18.25	18.25	207,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	3,100
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	3,700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	3,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	4,700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,900
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	6.6	6.7	6.6	6.7	6,000
Far Eastern University	450	450	450	450	110
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	7.6	7.9	7.6	7.8	13,711,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	110,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.25	0.27	0.25	0.25	4,580,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.34	0.35	0.34	0.35	12,340,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.12	1.16	1.12	1.16	4,726,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.53	0.54	0.51	0.54	3,720,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	2.44	2.44	2.44	2.44	210,000
SM Development Corp.	1.36	1.44	1.36	1.42	538,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.8	8.1	7.8	8	8,067,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.47	0.47	0.43	0.43	270,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc.B	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	250,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.012	226,100,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	4.5	4.5	4.2	4.2	160,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.43	0.43	0.4	0.4	66,810,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.52	0.52	0.47	0.48	31,370,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.022	0.022	0.02	0.02	792,700,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.028	0.028	0.026	0.027	345,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0048	0.005	0.0048	0.0048	105,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.86	0.86	0.78	0.78	6,680,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.89	0.89	0.8	0.8	20,300,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	250,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	2,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	15,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0044	0.0046	0.0044	0.0046	66,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.215	50,000
Pacifica	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	4,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	2.4	2.42	2.4	2.42	108,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.044	0.045	0.044	0.044	6,200,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	200,000

Gov't eyes VAT . . .

From page B1

10 percent to 12 percent.

But there is a proposal in Congress for the government to initially impose a 6-percent VAT on products and services that are currently exempted, instead of imposing a 12-percent VAT.

We rather have it at 12 percent, but of course we are open to other proposals. There are still so many details to be worked out, but we will keep an open mind to feedbacks like that," the finance official said.

Shares rise . . .

From page B1

Asia in 2004.

"The government's reform effort is what's driving the market," said Luz Lorenzo, an economist and market strategist at ATR Kim Eng Securities. "There is also relief that we're not involved in the tsunami disaster."

The government expects that gross domestic product grew 6.1 percent in 2004, and says that growth this year will possibly match that figure.

The broader All Shares Index rose another 4.40 points, or 0.4 percent, to 1,186.23, following a 27.44-point advance to 1,181.83 on Monday.

Except for the mining sector, which suffered from profit-taking, all other sectors advanced.

The widely traded "B" shares of food and beverage conglomerate San Miguel Corp., which has offered to buy Australia's National Food as part of its regional expansion plan, rose 6.7 percent to P80. AP

DISCLOSURES

EQUITABLE PCI Bank Inc. confirmed the approval of the merger between Equitable Savings Bank and Mindanao Development Bank.

***

PATRICK Go, an officer of **Allied Banking Corp.**, has been issued one nominee share. The share came from Domingo Chua, a director of the bank.

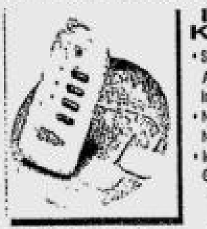
***

FRANCISCO Idian has been appointed sales director of **Alaska Milk Corp.**, effective Jan. 3.

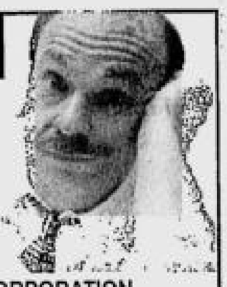
***

EDUARDO Molina DVM, vice president for poultry operations of **Vitarich Corp.**, has retired, effective Dec. 31, 2004. ***Compiled by D.J. Yap, PDI Research***

HIGHLY COMMERCIAL FOR LEASE
3,000 SQ M., 1 STOREY BLDG., SAN ANDRES, MALATE
Good for: Supermarkets, Warehouse Depot, Fastfood Center, Bank, Restaurant, Bar, Bookstore, Drugstore, Display Center
Call Carol ☎ 843-7633 • 843-7637 • 843-7539



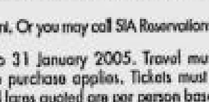
KILL ARTHRITIS in 5 MINUTES
INSTANT PAIN KILLER DEVICE
• Stops ARTHRITIS in minutes!
• No Pills No side effects
• Ideal for Rheumatism, Gout and Nerve Numbness
• Also for Stroke / Paralysis Therapy at home
• Handy and battery-operated
NISSEI NERVE STIMULATOR
STAR MILLS PAMPANGA 2nd Floor 45-636-3513
SM MANILA
FAR EAST MEDICAL EQUIPMENT
SM MEGAMALL 5th Flr., Bldg. A 635-04-36
SM FAIRVIEW Basement 418-75-40
SM NORTH EDSA Car Park 453-3326
CEBU 417-82-86
SM SOUTHMALL Basement 802 15 65
ROBINSONS GALLERIA Basement 635-5061



LOAN PROBLEMS?
■ Do you need loans for working capital and business expansion ?
■ Do you have past due loans that need to be restructured ?
■ Is your bank foreclosing or has the bank foreclosed your collateral ?
We can help you!!!
DIOMAMPO CONSULTING
DIOMAMPO CONSULTING CORPORATION
9/F LEGASPI SUITES, 178 Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City
Tel. Nos. 8182414 - 8184480 Fax 8193294 diocon@tri-isys.com

Dimsum n' Dumplings
one of the best managed fastfood chains of 2003 & 2004
BE A DnD FRANCHISEE
and cash-in on our 14 year track record of profits.
Turn-key franchises start as low as P650,000.00
Kiosk and Restaurant sites available
• EDSA, MAKATI CITY
• C5, PASIG CITY
• MANDALUYONG CITY
• DASMARINAS CAVITE
• BAGUIO
• LA UNION
• SOUTHBOUND LANE SOUTH LUZON EXPRESSWAY
• CEBU CITY
• BACOLOD CITY
• ILOILO CITY
• CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY
Call us for more information.
PRIME PACIFIC CORPORATION | Tel : 721-9695 to 98 | Fax : 722-6751 | Email ppc accig@vasia.com dnd@vasia.com

Singapore Airlines Travelog
New Year deals, travel in January!
SINGAPORE US$199 Valid SQ73/SQ74 Two to go
JAKARTA US$299 Valid SQ73/SQ166 or SQ73/SQ168 Two to go
BANGKOK US$249 Valid SQ73/SQ974 and SQ61/SQ74 Two to go
SURABAYA US$299 Valid SQ71/SQ134 and SQ133/SQ76 Two to go
KUALA LUMPUR US$249 Valid SQ73/SQ118 and SQ111/SQ76 Two to go
BRISBANE US$399 Valid SQ75/SQ255 and SQ256/SQ76 Two to go
PENANG US$249 Valid SQ73/SQ198 and SQ191/SQ74 Two to go
PERTH US$399 Valid SQ75/SQ225 and SQ224/SQ76 Two to go
DENPASAR US$299 Valid SQ73/SQ148 and SQ141/SQ74 Two to go
SYDNEY US$479 Valid SQ75/SQ231 and SQ220/SQ76 Two to go
Book and buy ONLINE at www.singaporeair.com/ph



A GREAT WAY TO FLY
www.singaporeair.com/ph
SINGAPORE AIRLINES
Airfares are also available through your travel agent. Or you may call SIA Reservations at 810-4951 to 59.
Valid for departures from Manila from 10 to 31 January 2005. Travel must be completed by 03 February 2005. Seven (7) days advance purchase applies. Tickets must be issued between 15 December 2004 and 24 January 2005. All fares quoted are per person based on non-accruable Economy Class travel, and exclude taxes, fees and other surcharges. Two persons must travel together. Stop in Singapore not allowed for tickets beyond Singapore. Same rate applies for children below 12 years old. Other terms and conditions apply.

PSBank Peso TIME DEPOSIT
Interest Rates (%)

Deposit Amount (in pesos)	30 days	60 days	90 days	1 year
100,000 - 499,999	5.750	6.500	6.750	7.250
500,000 - 999,999	6.500	7.250	7.500	7.750
1.0MM - 4,999,999	7.125	7.500	7.750	8.000
5.0MM - 9,999,999	7.250	7.750	8.000	8.250
10 million and up	7.500	8.250	8.250	8.500

Quoted rates are subject to change without prior notice.
Rates are on per annum basis and net of documentary stamp taxes.
Interest rates for other terms also available.
Visit any of our 139 PSBank Branches nationwide.
Member of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation. Maximum Deposit Insurance for each Depositor P250,000.00

Have a SMART start this 2005... use the MSI Packaged Software.
PAYROLL
- ensures FAST, COMPLETE & ACCURATE computation of payroll and generation of government reportorial requirements.
Daily Time Recording DTR
- a Time Keeping Software that keeps track employee's attendance, absences, tardiness, UT and OT records.
Personnel Information System PIS
- displays comprehensive 201 Files, and prints pre-defined personnel forms.
FREE DEMO w/in M.M.
OTHER PRODUCTS:
MSI Recruitment System
PROFIT Retail System (Inventory, Sales Manager / Point-of-Sale, Purchase Order)
••• Inquiry on Profit Retail call: 734-8858 • 736-6753 • 735-4892 •••
ATTENTION: MSI PAYROLL USERS
Latest version w/ the new PHIC TABLE for PREMIUM CONTRIBUTION for 2005 is now available.
METROSOFT, INC.
PACKAGED SYSTEMS APPLICATION PROVIDER
LG1 Cityland 9 Dela Rosa Condo., 7648 Dela Rosa St., Makati City 1230
Tels. 892-2798 • 892-2808 • 892-4530 892-4536 • 894-1043 • 894-1525
Fax: 892-2795 Email: msi@vasia.com

E-mail: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph

PEOPLE at WORK

Text us your feedback: inquirer paw name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Subsection Editor Regina Galang Reyes

Is there ever a time to brag during a performance review?

DEAR WW: I've got my performance review coming up. I'm pretty shy so I'm not big on talking about myself and what I've done and I'm nervous because my boss isn't the most aware person on the face of the earth. Any suggestions?

Casper

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner

Your e-mail reminded me of a Swedish burglar who robbed an elderly woman's house in Amsterdam. He was caught by police when the woman found him asleep on her couch.

Unfortunately, most of us act like this burglar when we go into our performance reviews—we take a nap and hope for the best. To get the credit you deserve, you've got to play an active role in your review. I've included tips for doing this below. For more, check out "Bragging" by Peggy Klaus (Warner, 2003).

Who is in the best position to look out for your interests? But a successful review starts with you adopting the mindset that it's your job to present your case. You can't rely on your boss to do it for you.

Do you prepare for your review in advance? Too many people go into their performance reviews unarmed. I think it's important to go in with a list of your accomplishments since your last review. And not just what you think you've done; whenever possible, bring e-mail, notes or memos from people who will vouch for your accomplishments.

Do you accept compliments well? Most of us are terrible at taking compliments, so when our boss says that we've done a good job we minimize the accomplishment, deny it or chalk it up to luck. No matter how shy you are, you've got to learn how to leverage positive comments about your performance. For example, if your boss says that you've done a good job on a particular project you might say, "Based on my success with this project, why don't you make me the chair of the next one?"

Do you help your boss focus on what's important? There are "forest" bosses and "tree" bosses. You know the ones who can't see the forest for the trees and visa versa. Whichever one best describes your boss, it's important to be prepared to balance out any biases that your boss may hold, so she can fairly judge your performance. For example, if your boss points out a mistake that you made on a project, remind him that you did lose that battle, but the overall project turned out successfully.

Do you listen to whatever criticism they have to offer? I've spent most of this column talking about all the ways that you have to assert yourself in a performance review. At the same time you have to be prepared to listen to whatever criticism or counsel your boss has to offer. And remember, even the jerkiest boss can occasionally offer insight.

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

Actively participate in your interview and as a result, your career will wake up from its slumber.

Here are the results from a recent workingwounded.com/ABCnews.com online ballot: What is your approach to your performance review?

—Shoot blanks, 10.5 percent

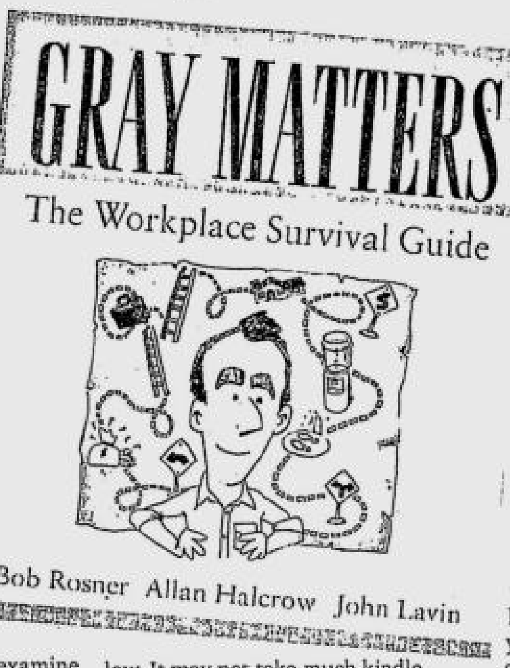
—Try to not shoot myself in foot, 43.4 percent

—Go in with both guns blazing, 45.9 percent

(Mr. Rosner, an internationally syndicated columnist, author and speaker, is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. E-mail him at bob@workingwounded.com.)

How to avoid the seven deadly workplace sins

By Regina Galang Reyes


GRAY MATTERS
The Workplace Survival Guide
Bob Rosner Allan Halcrow John Lavin

REPENTANCE is something we should do at work, if Bob Rosner, Allan Halcrow and John Lavin, authors of "Gray Matters: Use Ours, Use Yours" (John Wiley & Sons, Inc. 2003), had their way. They have identified "seven deadly workplace sins" that people at work are prone to commit in these uncertain times. They consider these sins "deadly" because if people in organizations commit them, the organization —and consequently our jobs—will surely become extinct.

The New Year is as good a time as any to examine whether we have "sinned" at work and what we can do to avoid committing these sins again this year. So what are these deadly workplace sins? And are we guilty of committing them? See if you can relate to any of the following:

Sin 1: Exhaustion

Your first reaction would probably be, "Aren't we supposed to be awarded a huge medal of loyalty for working ourselves to death?" But getting exhausted could lead to serious consequences at work. Continuous exhaustion can lead to burnout at work and at home. Ironically, working too much lessens productivity rather than increases it. Say "No" one thousand times to tasks that don't add value to your objectives at work and home and—simply stop doing them.

Sin 2: Anger

Rosner et al. write, "Anger is an acid that corrodes the foundations of any workplace." When you are exhausted, your triggering point for anger becomes very low. It may not take much kindle your anger. Count from one to ten-especially when you feel anger mounting—before reacting to an annoying situation.

Sin 3: Surrender

There are days when all odds seem to be against us. No one can blame us if we throw in the towel and give up. But, if you surrender, you will certainly be defeated. If you analyze situations at work and at home, there are circumstances we can control, and there are circumstances we cannot control. The trick is, in the words of Rosner et al., how do we "leverage our influences and make a difference?" Write one thousand times on paper towels, "Never give up!"

Sin 4: Obsolescence

Rosner et al. write, "Our future is at risk unless we invest in our skills." These words are so relevant in these times when no one can be assured of security of employment. The authors advise us to keep our skills current, meaning, hone up on skills needed by the times. It is only by doing so that we stay on top of our field. Sharpen one "saw" or skill a month for continuous improvement.

Sin 5: Incompetence

Rosner et al. advise, "Your career depends on you being competent in the right context." So, keeping your skills current means acquiring the skills you need for your career and home. It's time for you to start attending the necessary training programs and courses.

Sin 6: Withdrawal

When you start walking through your office and home like a zombie, then, you are retreating into your comfort cocoon, which can affect your work and family. Rosner et al. write, "When one team member withdraws, the whole team suffers." Take a needle and prick your arm a thousand times until you regain your senses. We have got to "stay focused on our mission and connected to others."

Sin 7: Dysfunction

When does a functional person become dysfunctional? In one way or another, we all are dysfunctional and we "bring our dysfunction to work every day." So how do we get through a normal day without going berserk? "We should learn to manage our neuroses—and those of our colleagues," says Rosner et al. This is what teamwork is all about, living with our quirks and learning how to work with others' quirks. Write a zillion times, "T.E.A.M." meaning, together each achieves more.

When you do this examination of your work conscience, remember that the important thing is recognizing we have fallen to temptation, and get up from there every time.

What I learned in prison

WORKING MOM

Gina Abuyuan-Llanes

THE ELECTRICITY only comes on from 1 p.m. to 6 a.m., we learn, which makes us—fellow working moms Jay and Tin, and their husbands Ken and Peter, respectively—a wee bit thankful we arrive at 12.30 p.m. Thank God for the cool December air, which makes the "apartment" in which our friends live more bearable, but I can only imagine the discomfort when the suffocating heat of summer comes. Nevertheless, if one closes her eyes and ignore the bars on the windows, one could be anywhere: in a high rise building in Manila during a brownout, or back home in Quezon City on a lazy weekend morning.

But we are visiting in neither of those places. We're in the far end of dorm 4B, Maximum Compound of the Bureau of Corrections in Muntinlupa. Five of our friends from the University of the Philippines (we are close to two of them, particularly, Warren and Michael), are there on appeal for an extremely unfortunate frat rumble-related death back in '94. (Of course every cell in my body and those of their family, friends, witnesses who testified for them in the years past, heck, maybe even their accusers—know they're innocent. But that's just the way justice and some powers-that-be work round these parts of the universe.). But we're not there to debate or discuss the details of their case.

We prepare the "buffet" we bring for them—sashimi, *caldereta*, a bucketful of KFC, fruit salad—sit down together, laugh, gossip about old friends, and act just like we did in college. We drop who we are, or rather, what we became after school: engineers, lawyers, marketing people, a graphic artist, a magazine editor. Time is thrown back 12 years and Jay, Tin, and I are the Sigma Deltans forever teased for being *sosyal* by frats like theirs, Scintilla Juris. Dan mimics our accents. Automatically, we retort: "Why who's *conyo* ba here?" The laughter is loud; the moment, bittersweet.

After lunch, we're given a tour. Behind their dorm are the basketball and tennis courts funded by Congressman Jalosjos. A strip of nipa sheds make for the "clubhouse," and again, should one sit quietly, sip some cold soda, and take in the sound of the tennis balls smacking against the concrete, one could be—as Ken enthusiastically described—"in a freaking country club!" (Although that may pushing it a tad too far…)

On the path towards dorm 4B itself, however, things couldn't be more different: there's a wet market, tailor shop, barber shop, Mike and Dan's workshop where they make resin figurines—bustling places of commerce that look abnormal only because of the utter lack of females. But the inmates keep their distance. They let us pass peacefully as we are escorted by "porters"—those assigned to hold umbrellas over the visitor's heads and to carry our bags. No one heckles or shouts, but they look at us with eyes filled with curiosity. "Who are you visiting?" they silently ask. "How is the world on the outside?" We walk past the death row building, where 1,500 condemned souls stare at us from behind a hogwire fence—their "sunning area." No curiosity lights up their eyes, however. They just see us. See past us. I want to smile, but can't. What do you say to men who know they're about to die by lethal injection?

On my next visit after Christmas, I watch out for any change in Mike's eyes. They're still the same, I believe, except for the moment he spots someone who owes him money, and a coldness falls over them as he excuses himself to talk to the person. The warmth is back when he comes back; the almost childlike glow.

Which is why I can't take it as 4 p.m. approaches, when it's time for visitors to leave. Usually so easy going, seldom anxious, this time he takes nervous glances at his watch and can't concentrate on our conversation. "Michael, stop it!" I say, slapping my hand over his wrist. "Try not to think about it. I'll come back."

I do return, two more times—and plan to continue, when my schedule permits. Strangely, my visits to "Munti" have been another version of a "mom's escape." I leave my phone outside, bring in only what's necessary (or what's allowed), and because of the time limit, enter conscious of a purpose. The person in front of me has my full attention, and I am able to listen to what he's saying—and more important, to what he prefers not to say. It's something that takes a great deal of practice to master when you're in the outside world: leave your excess baggage at the gate, drop all expectations, live in the moment.

But I'm just a visitor, you might say—and coming from the outside, it's easy for me to find something positive in their situation. I don't think I could be as positive, however, if it weren't Warren, Mike, JV, Cris and Dan, I was visiting. In them, I see how God lends strength, even throughout a long, hard-fought battle; the grace to remain good and the refusal to give in to despair and evil. Sure, they're my friends—but even from afar, their dignity is palpable: it's a bearing only faith can lend, and the rock-hard belief that they are indeed innocent, and will be proven so.

"So what's your next step, legally?" I ask Mike.

"We wait," he says, Indian-sitting on the floor. It's not resignation I hear, but hope. A certainty things will be all right.

I smile at his answer. Yes, this year, all things will be all right.

(Gina Abuyuan-Llanes is editor in chief of Working Mom magazine. For more ways on how to live life to the fullest, get the latest issue of Working Mom, with Donita Rose and baby JP on the cover. Feedback is welcome at gina_llanes@abs.pinoycentral.com.)

'We want to retire in the Philippines!'

By Tita Datu Puangco

Advice

FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

I AM an American who is married to a Filipina. We are living in the US now. I want to retire in the Philippines because I love the people of the Philippines. However, my wife discourages me from doing this because of the insurgency, kidnappings and the lack of dependable police and military action against these problems.

My wife and I own a home in Cavite and would love to live outside of Manila, create jobs and start a business. However, she fears that either my son or I would be kidnapped.

I know a lot of Filipinas married to Americans who would love to live in the Philippines if it was safe to do so. They would bring investment money that is badly needed in the Philippines. I wish that you would write and push for better security in the provinces so people would return to the provinces and feel safe in doing so.

American Seeks Advice

First of all, thank you for wanting to retire in the Philippines. Many people have done so happily and safely. The husband of my friend is an American who enjoys retirement in our country. He lives very simply, enjoying his garden and his video collection. But he lives with great sensitivity and awareness of his environment. He chose to live in a gated village in a Metro Manila suburb. He does not drive around in a flashy car, takes the normal precautions that a foreigner would do overseas and prefers to assume a low profile.

What your wife mentioned is true though our media can sometimes sensationalize the negative aspects like the insurgency, kidnappings and in some cases, the ineffectiveness of police action. While all Filipinos desire ideal safety and security, we may not have the resources and conditions to achieve these in the short term. The only way is to address poverty so that every Filipino eats three meals a day, has a roof over his head and a job. Private citizens and groups in the country addressing these issues are snowballing. We also realize that graft and corruption are rampant, reducing further our ability to fully use government resources. We can share with you our litany of woes.

But my view on safety and security has changed over the years. One can feel safe and secure in any country or feel unsafe and not secure. This depends on one's mindset, care and prudence.

I remember a few years ago, someone snatched my bag right from under my feet in a five star hotel in Manila. I was then having dinner with business guests from overseas. I was shocked and immediately reported this to the hotel management. I did not realize how typical was my experience. One of our guests shared to me a similar experience, losing a bag at the Los Angeles airport, another one about losing his camera in Paris, another his wallet and passport on a coach train going to Germany.

The rise of terrorism and the recent tsunami disasters in Asia tell me that there is no place on earth that is entirely safe. Unless globally, governments and people build peace and unity by respecting all cultures and religions, work for more equitable distribution of the world's resources, and move for sustainable development that respects nature.

These things today are in our areas of concern. These are things that we can't control or influence as individuals and we have to live with them, meanwhile. But there are many of the issues that you and your wife can see in unity that you can put under your control and influence. For example, you can select businesses that limit your physical presence. You can choose to reside in a gated village. You can live a simple yet meaningful life.

Whatever your decision, make sure your family decides together. I know the decision will not be easy. But before you make the decision to settle in the Philippines, why not take an extended vacation, so you can appreciate the day-to-day reality of life here? Thanks for writing.

(Ms Puangco is CEO and chair of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send feedback through e-mail to advice@ancillaedc.com.ph *or fax to 892-2902.)*

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

The Widest Reaching Classifieds

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 897-8425 (Direct) ☎ 8978808 (Trunk) Fax 897-8425
G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114013 Fax 8925578
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5224406 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

RATES
P245 per column centimeter
P75 per line
(All prices exclusive of E-VAT)

DEADLINES
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Mondays to Saturdays 12:00 noon Day before publication
Sundays 12:00 noon every Thursday

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

MEDICAL

PHYSICIAN/SURGEON

RAPID Tx VD-STD
Ex. SWEAT PIMPLES KELOID ALLERGY WARTS SKIN PEEL
15 Annapolis Greenhills
Call 7276124 - 25 9am-7pm

VDSTD Skin Clinic Rapid Tx Comp Lab Tel. 8175071 Matrinco 2178 P. Tamo Makati

GARMA CLINIC
VD SPECIALIST
VD GONORRHEA, WARTS SYPHILIS, HERPES, AIDS
ADULT CIRCUMCISION
VAGINAL REPAIR
SKIN DISEASES
COMPLETE LABORATORY
No. 8 Purdue St., Cubao, Q. C. back of Stella Maris College
OPEN 8 AM to 6 PM
MON. to SAT.
Tel. 4392706 / 9139474

PERSONAL

MASSAGE

PARAKLESIS THERAPEUTIC TRAINING CENTER
Call 453-2645/0919-3834178 /09195901076
SEMINAR ON MASSSAGE!!! (Free Meals)
With Certificate & Diploma

02-3233269 Male Factor

AKHIN THAI MASGE BGO, CBU, MLA 8347357

AROMATHERAPHY 752-0018

ASK BELL MALE MASSEUR (0921)5364794

H'SOME ATHLETES 8327363

MASSAGE 8545348 WARREN

MR. UNIVERSE SPA 1157 Quezon Ave. 410-1259

★ Mr BODY PHYSIQUE ★ 11A Kamias QC 4350978

RELAXING MASSAGE 8978214

THAI Msge Lic 0921-7569278

REFLEXOLOGY

★FEELS GOOD 4127758★

Jojo HMS 0920-8635511

•Wizard Massage 4213197•

TUTORIAL LESSONS

LEARN LANGUAGES
w/TUTORS-FRENCH, GERMAN, MANDARIN, NIHONGO, ENGLISH ETC. 5306933, 5308671

LIGHT 5268216 / 5301315

QUICK MATH
STAT, ALGEBRA, GEOM-ACCTG Trigo, Eng'ng, Math, Arithmetic 5306933, 5308671

HOUSEHOLD

Quality Maids 622-7269

HOUSEHOLD JOBS

HI PAY MAID, YAYA 732-67-50

GOOD MAID / YAYA / BOY 7572089

Help Agency 532-1947 • 532-2971

PACIFIC: MAIDS, ETC SINCE 1948 T:7312672

Trusted Maids Yaya Boy 7572089

"WANTED"
YAYA HOUSEBOY MAID
TEL 5260741 5253609

LIPAT BAHAY

•731-6833•LIPAT

L-BAHAY 9206784 4540520

L-BAHAY 8383742/09208449984

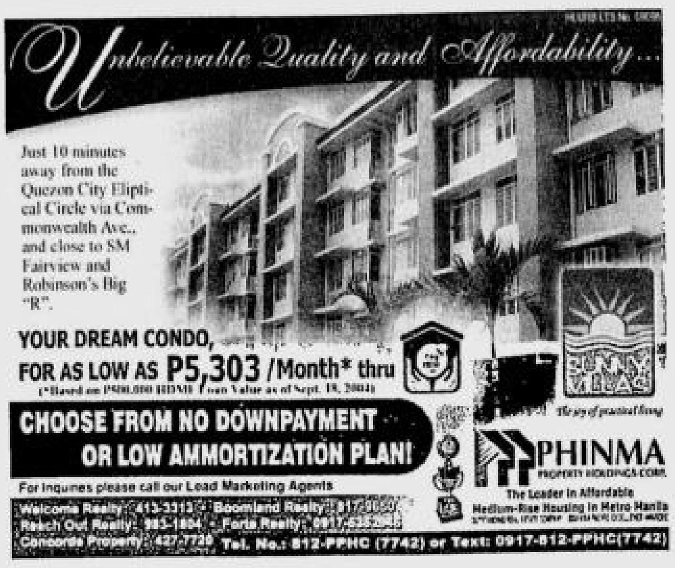
REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMMERCIAL

SAN JUAN

LA '141m² N. Domingo 3.8M DBO 7259692 7001607 09284100000

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE


Unbelievable Quality and Affordability...
Sunny Villas
The joy of practical living

Just 10 minutes away from the Quezon City Eliptical Circle via Commonwealth Ave., and close to SM Fairview and Robinson's Big "R".

YOUR DREAM CONDO, FOR AS LOW AS P5,303 /Month* thru
(*Based on P800,000 HDMF Loan Value as of Sept. 18, 2004)

CHOOSE FROM NO DOWNPAYMENT OR LOW AMMORTIZATION PLAN!

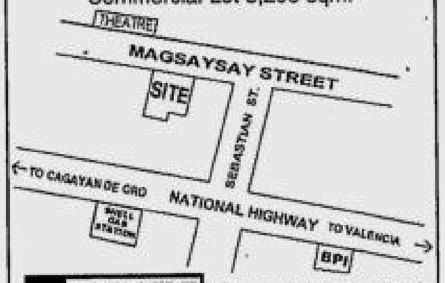
For inquiries please call our Lead Marketing Agents
Welcome Realty: 413-3313 • Boomland Realty: 917-[illegible]
Reach Out Realty: 983-1804 • Forta Realty: 0917-535[illegible]
Concorde Property: 427-7729 Tel. No.: 812-PPHC (7742) or Text: 0917-812-PPHC(7742)

PHINMA PROPERTY HOLDINGS CORP.
The Leader in Affordable Medium-Rise Housing in Metro Manila

COMML/RESDL

OTHER PROVINCIAL

PRIME LOCATION
BUKIDNON
Along Magsaysay Street, Malaybalay
Commercial Lot 5,293 sqm.



ZITRO REAL ESTATE
Tels. 818-2781 / 751-5472
Cell no. 0919-6745430

CONDO/TWNHSE

CAVITE

RSG GUEVENTHOMES

as low as P700T
Min. 15% D/P
15% 2nd REM
70% Balance thru In-House convertible to Pag-IBIG Housing Loan
BACOOR only 10 mins from Baclaran!
as low as P4,100/mo*
* Pag-IBIG Housing Loan
531-0395 * 531-1384
(0920) RSG HOME
(0920) 910 0000
Toll Free: 1-800-10 RSGHOME
www.guevent.com

COMML/RESDL

QUEZON CITY

'Kamias #11 K-I cor K-6th NEW ' 9210255 9219967 9220539

HOUSE & LOT

KALOOCAN

Lot with House Perfect for Family or Business / Factory 10TH & 11TH Ave, Caloocan Apartments Included 650sq. meters Close to Notredame & Olga Call Call 0918-3410776

MAKATI

MKT NR AYALA Bnew Twnhse /3stry/3br/2 1/2tb/grge P3.720M up 8903461 loc 34

MARIKINA

Bnew 4BR 3TB 2.6M 9487112

OTHER AREAS

BAGUIO P689T 09193025115

BULACAN

STA. MARIA 225T 9372688

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

1BR MKT 1.8M(NEG) 8938708

MAKATI CONDO RENT/SALE 410-8395 / 0919-8504468

MKT NR AYALA BnewTwnhse/3stry/3br/2 1/2tb/grge P3.720M up 8903461 loc 34

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMML/RESDL

OTHER PROVINCIAL

CONDO/TWNHSE

CAVITE

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

RENT2OWN 9T/mo. Condo nr. Mkti 0922-8086855

MANDALUYONG

CITYLAND SHAW 1BR FRONT SHANG P2.1M 09175213838

Malayan Plz & Lee Gardens Stud-3BR • 534-6610 Jojo

PASIG

★Parc Royale 1BR 2.8M 412-1825

RENT TO OWN!
CONDO nr. Fort & Makati 2-4BR Fully Secured 15K monthly & 45K DP Anne • (0920) 236-0929

QUEZON CITY

BRAND NEW PROJECT 4 2STOREY W/ ATTIC 6830677

LOT

KALOOCAN

325m² 6th ST 11th AVE G.PARK T3631784

420m² P1.2M BALUBAD ST NOVALICHES 802-2912

RIZAL

RICHMOND nr Ortigas Ext COMML 200m² Ph1 P6T/m² RESD'L 164m² P5T/m² w/view RUSH 9338423 / 6356003

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

RESORT

Lot Only Town & Country Subd. Lalhan Resort Bocaue Bulacan 225sq. meters Call 0918-3410776

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

COMMERCIAL

QUEZON CITY

West Ave Car Sp 0920-9034812

HOUSE

QUEZON CITY

3BR SERRAMONTE VILLAS FILINVEST2 0917-7162116 JUN

CONDO/TWNHSE

MANILA

ASTRAL TOWER front PGH 1BR P18T/mo. 0921-5046978

SAN JUAN

Ghills FF Stu P11T 929-9835

APARTMENT

MANILA

652 M Cristina Samp 09174529165

QUEZON CITY

BNEW studio PROJ.2 4342604 / 0919-2876641

ROOM & BOARD

120I Mla 7116679 / 7836781

BF Pque 8275345 / 8257524

For Ladies Semi-Furn Bedspace 200 Pasadena, San Juan 416-1045

•FURNISH PASAY 8872865•

Mkt.Condo M/F Nice/Prkg 8979417

BEDSPACE

Male 1.5 Pasay 8315026

BUSINESS RENTAL

PTAMO nr BUENDIA 1st class 62/148/185m²8903461 loc. 34 or 19 ofc hrs.

LOAN & MORTGAGE

2% W/O TAKING CAR 3677523/24

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

MALATE MLA 526-8048/49

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

CONDO/TWHSE/ FOR SALE/RENT

Rent 2 Own Condo
Nr SM Sta. Mesa 120K move- in RFO 0% interest 0918-4131377

QUEZON CITY

CUBAO P1.5M Flexible Terms Offselling OK 09178348080

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

MERCEDES

'97 E230 Black Elegance Imprtd Casa-maintained all auto / orig, w/Sunroof 36Tkm, see 2 appr Call 0920-9040510

MITSUBISHI

02 Adv SS gas 520T 4361294

NISSAN

01 Exalta DS m/t 370T 4361294

'97 Cefiro A/T 320T 9254566

TOYOTA

01 Corolla GLI A/T 390T 9254566

'01 Revo SR 09179790275

OTHER CAR BRANDS

Pajero Land Cruiser Surf Safari Trooper Terrano Town-Lite-HI Ace Delica Serena Vanette Space Gear Elf Canter etc. Finance T-In 9120647 / 09178342020

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

Sunflower Transport Hi-Ace Coaster 631-3496 0920-2405784

All New Toyota Corolla Tel 687-1550 • 687-1551

CarsVans CoasterBus 422-9296

CARS•VANS•BRDAL 8969956

Cheap Van Rental 9330311

CARS VANS 4X4 COSTR BUS AUTOMATIC/MANUAL TRANS 8908667 8908668 8908669

P800/L3 9136710 / 4333692

STAREX L300 CARS 726-6388

Toyco U Drive w/ Driver All Kinds Cars Van Revo Dly. Wk.Mo. Rental 8023021-22

ABC RENT A CAR
HI-ACE•STAREX L300•CRV•REVO HONDA•VIOS•ALTIS•LYNX•CRLA
MLA : 536-8822 • 303-9789
Q.C.: 426-2278 • 426-4084

CAR LOAN

1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677523/24

1.5% CAR LOAN 534-4441

1.5% CARLOAN 373-6519

1.5% CARLOAN 788-0361

1.5% Easy Car Loan 3748765

1.5% Easy Car Loan 4112547/48

1.5% Easy Carloan 7815352/55

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6560140

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

•1HR Fast Car Loan 7125202•

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

2% w/o Taking Car 5315577

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081

2% w/out taking car 6567685

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

BUY/SELL

EDUC PALN 2528373/2557990

FURNITURE/ FIXTURES

CRSTLCHANDLIR9275444000

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY

Regional Office IV, Balagtas, Batangas City
Tel. No. (043) 723-3325, (043) 402-0428, & (043) 300-0165 / Fax No. (043) 723-0449
Website: www.nfa.gov.ph/E-mail: Address: nfaro4@batangas.net.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID FOR 2005 SECURITY SERVICES OF NFA-REGION IV

The **National Food Authority**, Southern Tagalog Region invites all interested Private Security Agencies (PSA) with the following qualifications -

- ✓ with valid current regular/permanent license to operate issued by the Philippine National Police Security Agencies and Guards Supervision Division (PNP-SAGSD)
- ✓ which has been in operation for at least five (5) years
- ✓ which has neither been a respondent to NFA charges nor has it been a complainant against NFA in any court of law or administrative bodies (This also applies to sister companies.)

to apply for eligibility and to bid for security services to be provided in all NFA designated areas/ installations of each NFA Provincial Office within Region IV and corresponding Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) for each lot as follows:

LOT 1

PROVINCE	NUMBER OF SECURITY GUARDS	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT (ABC)	SOURCE OF FUND	CONTRACT DURATION
Batangas/Lubang	41	P 5,548,380.00	LOCAL	ONE (1) YEAR
Infanta	12	1,487,880.00		
Laguna	28	3,126,000.00		
Palawan	37	4,352,160.00		
Quezon	15	2,035,440.00		
Total	133	P 16,549,860.00		

LOT 2

PROVINCE	NUMBER OF SECURITY GUARDS	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT (ABC)	SOURCE OF FUND	CONTRACT DURATION
Mamburao	49	P 5,683,020.00	LOCAL	ONE (1) YEAR
Marinduque	8	927,840.00		
Occ. Mindoro	77	9,417,660.00		
Or. Mindoro	31	3,664,980.00		
Romblon	16	1,855,680.00		
Total	181	P 21,549,180.00		

NOTES:Interested PSA should participate in only one (1) LOT of his choice and sister company, if there is any, cannot apply.

PSA's whose value of largest single contract completed in 2003 and 2004 is less than 50% of above-cited ABC's (P16,549,860.00 Sixteen Million Five Hundred Forty Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty pesos for LOT 1 and P21,549,180.00 Twenty One Million Five Hundred Forty Nine Thousand One Hundred Eighty Pesos for LOT 2) need not apply.

The application forms, eligibility requirements and bidding documents may be secured on December 29, 2004 to January 11, 2005 **during office hours** from the Regional Bids and Awards Committee (RBAC) Secretariat at the Second Floor of NFA Office Building, Balagtas, Batangas City after payment of a non-transferable/non-refundable bidding fee in cash or cashier's/manager's check in favor of the NFA, amount of which is based on per Lot-ABC basis as follows:

Lot 1	P16,549.86
Lot 2	P21,549.18

The schedule of activities for this bidding are as follows:

1. Posting at G-EPS Schedule of Publication	29 December 2004 29 December 2004 & 05 January 2005
2. Issuance of Eligibility and Bidding Documents	29 December 2004 to 11 January 2005 RBAC Secretariat, Second Floor NFA Office Building, Batangas City
3. Pre-Bidding Conference	17 January 2005 @ 10:00 AM NFA Conference Room, Third Floor NFA Office Building, Batangas City
4. Deadline of Submission of Eligibility Documents and Bids	04 February 2005 not later than 9:30 AM RBAC Secretariat, Second Floor NFA Office Building, Batangas City
5. Opening of Bids	04 February 2005 @ 10:00 AM NFA Conference Room, Third Floor NFA Office Building, Batangas City

The prospective bidders shall submit simultaneously three envelopes, one containing the eligibility requirements and two containing bidding documents. Contents of each of the bid envelopes are specified in the Instructions to Bidders.

The RBAC shall use a "Pass/Fail" criteria to determine the eligibility of prospective bidders. As such, non-submission of any of the eligibility requirements will result in the disqualification of prospective bidders.

Only eligible bidders can participate in the actual bidding. A single stage bidding two envelope system will be adopted using a simple pass/fail criteria for the evaluation of bid offers.

THE NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ACCEPT OR REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS THEREOF, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITIES OR DEFECTS FOUND THEREIN AND ASSUMES NO OBLIGATION WHATSOEVER TO COMPENSATE INDEMNITY TO THE BIDDERS FOR ANY EXPENSES THAT THEY MAY INCUR IN THE PREPARATION OF BIDS AND TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS OR TO AWARD TO ANY CONTRACTOR WHOSE BID IS CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE NFA AND/OR TO THE GOVERNMENT.

For further inquiries, please contact RBAC Chairman Wilfredo O. Rendon at the NFA Regional Office IV, Batangas City at Tel. No. (043) 402-1878.

(Sgd.) **WILFREDO O. RENDON**
Assistant Regional Director
and Chairman, RBAC

(PDI - Dec. 29, 2004 & Jan. 5, 2005)

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

PETS

Dog Trainer 0919-2050952

G Ret adult/F 09185221929

WANTED TO BUY

A NAME YOU CAN TRUST!
MANILA WATCH EXCHANGE
BUY • SELL • PAWN
ROLEX+OTHERS
& Other Swiss Watches
DIAMONDS / JEWELRY
Hi-Appraisal/Fast Cash
Repair/Polish Any Watch
T#804-0484 • 834-2886

'PROFESSIONAL & CREDIBLE'
LOW 5% INTEREST
BUY • SELL • PAWN
SWISS WATCHES
AGENCIA de MAKATI-4587017
SECONDO AYALA CENTER-8940282
OPEN MONDAY TO SATURDAY

WE BUY AT HIGH PRICE
ROLEX
5646593 5897041
5633742 0917-8473744

WE BUY
JEWELRY, DIAMONDS
ROLEX, PAWNTICKETS
& Other Swiss Watches Fast Cash
09163422208 • 09155547779

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

WANTED TO BUY

BUYING ROLEX
Other WATCHES, BEST PRICE
0917-8142309 • 7269687
7220433 • 4123543

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

LEARN LANGUAGES
w/TUTORS-FRENCH, GERMAN, MANDARIN, NIHONGO, ENGLISH ETC. 5306933, 5308671

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

EARN P10T up/week - HOW? share d blanez 0917-7497747

earnextranow.com code: atb2004 8531008 09178901851

FOR SALE
Majority & controlling shares in an established Nursing School Co-Brokers welcome Call Exclusive Broker at 09216613765

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

FEMALE

Masseure 534-4003 631-3496

MANDALUYONG

Skin Care Training 532-2115

MALE/FEMALE

ALL-AROUND BOY , CREW, COOK, DRIVER.
PLEASE. CALL 412-0617

CAREGIVER T-5280747

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

English Tutor Good Communication Skills in English Bachelor of Science in education Graduate Single ages, 20-26 yrs old w/ pleasing personality call 8508712/8075707

★2005Job Expansion★
OFC. STAFF/MGT. TRAINEES
CALL 633-2962 Mr. Noel Tan

SALES CONSULTANT 20-35Yo 10T/mo. w/Comm & Incentives 0918-6046577 • 726-3905

RUSH SALE
Office Condo Unit
Cityland Condominium 10 Tower 1
Unit 2414, 20th Floor
6815 Ayala Avenue
Makati City

Floor Area = 65.56 square meters

Please call or text
Ms. Jojo Punsal
0917-8332722

Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Announcement for Hiring for the Position of

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IV

(CHEDB-EXED4-2-1998; SG-29)

The post of the Executive Director IV is the highest-ranking official of the Commission below the Chairman and Commissioners. The Executive Director IV is the chief operating officer of CHED, and as such, is responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operations of CHED, including the enforcement of the policies and regulations and the implementation of the plans for higher education.

Minimum Qualification Standards:

1. Preferably with Doctoral Degree related to the job
2. At least three years of supervisory experience
3. Career Executive Service Officer (CESO) or
   Career Executive Service Eligible (CESE)
   (In exceptional cases, the President of the Philippines may appoint a non-CES eligible)

Required Documents to be submitted:

1. Personal Data Sheet (CS Form No. 212)
2. Clearances from the following Agencies:
   - 2.1 Office of the Ombudsman
   - 2.2 Civil Service Commission
   - 2.3 National Bureau of Investigation
3. Duly Sworn Statement of Assets and Liabilities
4. Duly Certified Copy of Latest Income Tax Return
5. Certification of existence or non-existence of pending administrative case
6. Certification of physical fitness; medical record certified by physician specifying illness, if any, of applicant
7. Write-up or Paper of your Vision and Missiŏn for CHED

Additional pertinent documents must be submitted to support Administrative Experience, Linkages and Networking Capabilites, Academic Qualification and Relevant Training/s, and Professional Expertise such as Consultancy engagements, Lectures delivered, Papers presented, Research conducted, Published Books and Materials, Awards/Recognitions received, and involvement in relevant professional organizations/associations.

Application must be addressed to The Chairman, Commission on Higher Education and be submitted in five (5) copies on or before January 17, 2005 to:

The Screening and Selection Committee
c/o Human Resource Management Division,
Administrative and Finance Service
Commission on Higher Education
Ground Floor, Jollibee Center Building,
San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center,
Pasig City

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SALE SCRAP/JUNK ITEMS

"AS IS, WHERE IS" BASIS

DATE OF BIDDING : January 25, 2005, 2:00 PM, Solarium Multi-Purpose Rooms, Bldg. 1, Ground Floor, NPC-HO, Agham Road corner Quezon Ave., Diliman, Quezon City

The National Power Corporation will conduct public bidding of the following scrap and junk items located at various NPC stations.

SCHEDULE 1 (Simultaneous public bidding at Zamboanga SPUG and NPC-HO, Diliman, Q.C.)

Item Description and Location	Minimum Bid Price
1. One (1) lot of junk diesel engine parts, scrap metals and corroded drums located at Isabela, Basilan.	P 75,000.00/lot

SCHEDULE 2

Item Description and Location	Minimum Bid Price
1. One (1) lot of junk diesel engine parts, scrap metals and corroded drums located at Marinawa DPP, Bato, Catanduanes	P 126,000.00/lot
2. One (1) lot junk and scrap communication equipment cables, control panels, used batteries, office equipment and computers, One (1) unit motor vehicle, located at Systems Operations Warehouse, Hermosa, Bataan Note: Batteries are located at Systems Ops., Diliman, Q.C.	P 443,000.00/lot
3. One (1) lot junk/scrap items consisting of substation equipment, power cables, guy wires, office equipment and computers, GPEs, three (3) units junk motor vehicles, and other junk items in the cordoned off area at Mexico Substation, Mexico, Pampanga	P 773,250.00/lot
4. One (1) lot "PCB-Free" used transformer oil and Oil Circuit Breakers, twelve (12) sets located at Mexico Substation, Mexico, Pampanga. DENR permit to transport is required for this item. Note: Two (2) poles of the oil circuit breakers with PCB contamination is not included in the sale.	P 4,028,430.00/lot

ALL BIDS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE FOLLOWING:

1. PROPOSAL BOND DEPOSIT IN THE FORM OF CASH OR MANAGERS'S/CASHIER'S CHECK EQUIVALENT TO TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE TOTAL BID PRICE
2. LATEST INCOME TAX RETURN (2003 ORIGINAL OR XEROX COPY OF THE BIDDER OR **AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT** (ORIGINAL) OF THE COMPANY AND ONE (1) COPY OF VALID IDENTIFICATION CARD LIKE DRIVER'S LICENSE, GSIS, ID, SSS ID, POSTAL ID, PASSPORT, PRC ID AND COMPANY ID.

Interested parties who wish to participate in the public bidding may secure the bid form at P500.00/ set from S.V. Lomuntad, Jr. at Bldg. 1, Ground Floor, NPC Head Office, Corner Agham Road and Quezon Ave., Diliman, Q.C. or call telephone no. 924-5384. Deadline for issuance of bid form is 4:30 PM January 24, 2005.

For the Materials Management Department
(Sgd.) **FELIX B. TACATA JR.**
OIC, MMD

(PDI–Jan. 5, 6 & 7, 2005)

MANILABANK
YOUR GOLDEN SAVINGS BANK

TRUST

THE MANILA BANKING CORPORATION

NOTICE

To All Remaining Account Holders of

SHORT TERM INVESTMENT CERTIFICATE (STIC)
TRUST INVESTMENT PROGRAM (TIP)
STUDENTS' TRUST EDUCATIONAL PLAN (STEP)
TRUST CERTIFICATE (TC)

Please be advised that the Bank is resigning as agent/trustee of the foregoing accounts/plans effective **January 31, 2005.** Please contact the **Trust Department** at Manilabank Bldg., 6772 Ayala Avenue, Makati City or call **751-6000** local **6302** or **6303** and ask for **Rachelle** or **Jay.**

(PDI–Jan. 5, 2005)

PSALM POWER SECTOR ASSETS & LIABILITIES MANAGEMENT CORPORATION

INVITATION TO BID

The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation ("*PSALM*") Privatization, Bids and Award Committee ("*Committee*") invites interested parties to participate in and bid for the privatization of the following:

Plant Equipment, Components, Auxiliaries and Accessories of the Manila Thermal Power Plant located at Isla de Provisor, Paco, Manila

(the "*Asset*"). The Asset is being privatized on an "*as is where is*" basis.

Interested parties are required to submit a Letter of Interest ("*LOI*") to PSALM which shall state the full name, address, telephone and fax number of the interested party, name of the principal contact, and signed by an authorized representative. All LOIs must be received by PSALM at the PSALM Office, 2nd Floor, SGV II Building, Ayala Avenue, Makati City, not later than 5:00 p.m. on January 14, 2005 (the "*LOI Submission Deadline*"). Only interested parties that submit an LOI by the LOI Submission Deadline shall be allowed to participate further in the privatization of the Asset.

As a prerequisite to the receipt of the Bidding Package, interested parties shall execute a Confidentiality Agreement and an Undertaking pursuant to Section 78 of RA 9136, in the forms provided by PSALM, and pay a non-refundable fee in the amount of Five Hundred U.S. Dollars (U.S. $ 500.00) (the "*Participation Fee*"). The Participation Fee shall either be in cash, manager's check or cashier's check. All bank charges, if any, shall be for the account of the interested party. The Confidentiality Agreement, Undertaking and Participation Fee must be received by PSALM on or before 5:00 p.m. of January 17, 2005 to entitle an interested party further participation in the privatization of the Asset.

The Bidding Package, which includes the bidding procedures, shall be issued during office hours (9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) from January 10 until January 18, 2005 at 5:00 p.m. (the "*Deadline*") at the PSALM Office. In accordance with the bidding procedures, only interested parties who have been issued the Bidding Package by the Deadline or a consortium which includes an interested party will be allowed to participate further in the privatization of the Asset.

The schedule of the bidding activities shall be as follows:

Due Diligence	:	January 10, 2005 to February 14, 2005
Pre-bid Conference	:	January 19, 2005, 9:30 a.m. at the PSALM Office
Deadline for Receipt of Bids by PSALM	:	February 18, 2005, 12:00 p.m. at the PSALM Office

References to dates and times shall be based on Manila time. Should any of the above dates fall on a holiday, the deadline shall be extended to the same time of the immediately succeeding business day in Makati City.

Interested parties will be required to post a bid security equivalent to ten percent (10%) of its total bid price in the form of an irrevocable letter of credit, confirmed by a local bank and acceptable to the Committee. The bid security of the winning bidder shall be substituted by a performance security to guarantee prompt, faithful and complete performance of its obligations under the transaction. A two-envelope bidding system will be adopted. Other details of the privatization of the Asset are contained in the Bidding Package.

Letters of Interest, Confidentiality Agreements and Undertakings shall be addressed and submitted to: The Chairman, Privatization, Bids and Awards Committee, PSALM Corporation, 2nd Floor, SGV II Building, Ayala Avenue, Makati City, Philippines. Inquiries and clarifications shall be addressed to Mr. Froilan A. Tampinco at the PSALM Office or at telephone number (632) 893-6202, fax number (632) 840-5341 or e-mail address fatampinco@psalm.gov.ph.

The Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any interested party or bidder or proposals or bids therefrom, or any part thereof, and/or to waive any defects contained therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Government, without offering any reason whatsoever. It does not assume any obligation to compensate or indemnify parties for any expense or loss that they may incur as a result of their participation in the privatization process, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made. Finally, it reserves the right to modify, supplement, or change the Bidding Procedures and other aspects of the privatization process at any time, including the schedule and the venue provided herein, for any reason whatsoever and without giving prior notice. Interested parties and/or bidders will be notified subsequently of such modifications, supplements, or changes.

(Sgd.) **VINCENT S. PEREZ, JR.**
Chairman
PSALM Privatization, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--Jan. 5, 6 & 7, 2005)

Supreme Court
of the Philippines

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Supreme Court invites authorized Distributors/dealers of branded Personal Computers to pre-qualify and participate in the lot bidding for the following:

A. 936 units – Personal Computers
B. 54 units – Laser Printers
C. 1,043 units – Dot matrix printers (Narrow carriage 80 columns)
D. 22 units – Wide carriage 136 columns
E. 936 units – AVR, 500 watts

For distribution and delivery to:

Court	PC	Laser Printer	Dot Matrix (80 Columns)	Dot Matrix (136 Columns)	AVR (500 watts)
Supreme Court	90	54	65	20	90
Lower Courts	846	–	978	2	846
Total	**936**	**54**	**1,043**	**22**	**936**

The approved budget is **SIXTY EIGHT MILLION PESOS (P68,000,000.00)** to be charged against the Judiciary Development Fund.

The winning bidders shall deliver the required equipment within sixty (60) calendar days upon receipt of Purchase Order (P.O.).

Interested bidders must not be related to the head of the procuring entity or to any members of the Committee on Bids or COB Secretariat either by consanguinity or affinity up to the third civil degree.

Prospective bidders may secure pre-qualification requirements and bid documents including the list of recipient Courts and their locations from the Secretariat, Committee on Bids, 4th Floor, Multi-purpose Bldg., Property Division, Supreme Court, after payment of a non-refundable fee of **Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00)**. For additional information, contact the Secretary, **Atty. Ennar RC Cabanilla** at telefax no. 5251270 or **Norma Josue** at telefax no. 5247425.

I. PRE-BID CONFERENCE
The Pre-Bid Conference will be held on 12 January 2005 at 2:00 p.m., Session Hall, 3rd Floor, Old Building, Supreme Court.

II. SUBMISSION OF ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS
The legal requirements for eligibility of prospective bidders must be personally submitted by the duly authorized representative on 19 January 2005 at 2:00 p.m., Session Hall, 3rd Floor, Old Building, Supreme Court.

III. OPENING OF BIDS
Bids of eligible bidders will be accepted and opened in the presence of the bidders or their representatives on 26 January 2005 at 2:00 p.m., Session Hall, 3rd FLoor, Old Building, Supreme Court.

The Committee on Bids reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defects or informalities therein, or accept any bids/s or offer/s which it may consider to be advantageous and beneficial to the government.

December 23, 2004.

(Sgd.) **JOSE P. PEREZ**
Chairman
Committee on Bids

(PDI–Dec. 29, 2004 & Jan. 5, 2005)

GREAT OCEAN AQUAMARINE CORP.
wanted

Female Secretary

willing to be assigned in the province
free board and lodging

Bring: Resumé
Transcript of records
NBI
Medical Certificate

Tel. Nos. 851-2421 / 852-3944
3420 Maura St., Factor Compound,
Dongalo, Parañaque City.

VILLAMOR GOLF CLUB (VGC)

INVITATION TO BID

The renovation of male and female locker rooms of Villamor Golf Club is offered for public bidding. The project includes civil works, fabrication of lockers, plumbing, electrical and water heater system.

Interested parties are invited to attend the **Pre Bid Conference** on **14 Jan. 2005** (Friday) at 2 p.m. to secure project details at VGC Board Room Villamor Airbase, Pasay City.

Bids will be received, opened and tabulated in the presence of the bidders and interested club members on 28 Jan. 2005 (Friday) at 3 p.m. at the VGC Board Room.

For more information, please call 8534977 (GM's office).

(PDI–Jan. 5 & 10, 2005)

Your career might only be a click of the mouse away.

JOB Market
www.jobmarketonline.com

FORT BONIFACIO DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR CONTRACTOR'S ACCREDITATION FOR FORT BONIFACIO DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION PROJECTS

Fort Bonifacio Development Corporation (FBDC) invites accredited contractors of the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) with minimum license Category of "A" Registration, and at least 5 years active experience in the construction industry to apply for CONTRACTOR'S ACCREDITATION for FBDC projects in the Bonifacio Global City. Proposed Year 2005 projects to be bid cover architectural, structural, civil, electrical, telecommunication and sanitary/plumbing works with expected cost of Php 500,000,000.00

Contractor's Accreditation Questionnaire Form and List of Documents Required to be submitted are available at FBDC office, 2nd Floor, Bonifacio Technology Center, 31st Street corner Second Avenue, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City

The following schedule of activities shall be followed:

1. January 12-14, 2005 (9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.) – Issuance of Contractor's Accreditation Questionnaire Form / List of Documents Required.
2. January 21, 2005 (3:00 p.m.) – Deadline for submission of accomplished forms / Documents Required at FBDC office.

FBDC hereby reserves its right to reject any or all applications of contractors, and to accept applications of contractors that meet the criteria.

Should there be need for any clarification or have any inquiries, please feel free to call Noemi B. Alelojo at telephone No. 818-3601 loc. 3302 or Fax No. 815-90 69.

Restaurant Business and Rights for Sale – RUSH!

Php 350,000 negotiable

Fully Furnished within Intramuros
Near Letran, Lyceum, PLM, and Mapua

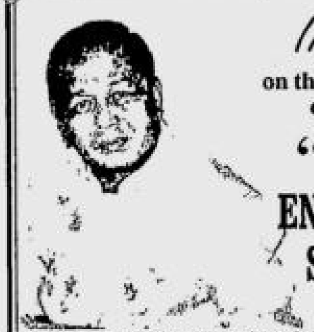
200 sqm. including kitchen, with M/F Restrooms.

Excellent Business Opportunity
For inquiries, please call or text

Jet Cornejo
0918-9351615

OBITUARIES

"Only goodness & love will pursue me all the days of my life;
I will dwell in the house of the Lord for the years to come..."
Ps 23:16



In Loving Memory
on the First Death Anniversary
of our Dearly Beloved

"DADDY"
ENRIQUE FAJARDO SUMINISTRADO

of Sta. Cruz, Laguna

who peacefully rests in the infinite Grace & Goodness of the Lord on the 5th day of January 2004.

Holy Mass will be offered today at the following churches:

Immaculate Concepcion Parish
Sta. Cruz, Laguna .... 5:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
St. Therese of the Child Jesus Parish
UP Los Baños, Laguna .... 6:00 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.
Our Mother of Perpetual Help Parish Church
Laguna Bel-Air, Sta. Rosa, Laguna .... 6:00 p.m.
St. Jude Parish Church
Trece Martirez, Cavite City .... 5:30 p.m.

The family requests relatives, friends & pious readers to join them in praying for the eternal repose of his soul.

FRANCISCO M. CASTAÑO

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on January 4, 2005 at the age of 84.

His bereaved children **GIL, FRANCO & ZENY, MAITE & VAL**; grandchildren **CHRISTIAN & JANE ANNE, KITT, QUICO, FININA**; nephews, nieces and other relatives request the readers to join them in praying for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His body lies in state at Mt. Carmel Shrine, New Manila, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Friday, January 7, 2005 at the La Loma Cemetery after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at Mt. Carmel.

"Let the words of my mouth meet your Favor, keep the thoughts of my heart before you, Lord, my rock, my redeemer..."

— Psalm 21:15

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...
INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS
and bank-to-bank payments

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8978425 (Direct) ☎ 8978808 (Trunk) Fax 8978425
G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6372008 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5280183 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

OBITUARIES

HERITAGE PARK
Mortuary and Crematory
"The newest and most modern Funeral Home & Crematory in the country!
Trunk Line: (632) 845-2334 to 38
Direct Line: (632) 845-2440

JOHNNY WILSON

Peacefully joined our Lord
on December 31, 2004 at the age of 69.

He is survived by his wife **Terry**; children, children-in-law and grandchildren: **Trixie, Al, Monique, Rossana, Gina, Stefan, Jamie, Anabel, Tabitha, Mishka, Phoebe**; sister **Doris**; sister-in-law **Milagros**; brother-in-law **Jun**; sister-in-law **Belen**; stepmother **Joan**; brother **Emery**; sisters **Lindy, Brenda** and **Cathy**; and other relatives and friends.

His remains lie in state at Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on January 5, 2005 at St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Parish, Magallanes Village, Makati City after the 10:00 a.m. Mass at Don Bosco Parish Church, Pasay Road corner Amorsolo, Makati City.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations for the victims of the Asian Tsunami in the name of Johnny Wilson. Please make checks payable to the* ***GMA KAPUSO FOUNDATION* ***(for the Tsunami victims)****. Thank you.*

Our Dearly Beloved

Ex Mayor Jose V. Villaroman Sr.

San Rafael, Bulacan
Dec. 9, 1910 – Jan. 3, 2005

Tatay, a good son of God and a perfect loving father to us children. Taught love to us simply by living it in his 94 years of giving unselfishly.

His loving wife **Fe Villaroman**, loving children **Rene** and **Stephanie Silvestre, Dr. Joey** and **Dra. Lucy Villaroman, Architect Rudy** and **Luz Vergel de Dios, Tony** (†) and **Erly Reyes**, grandchildren and great grandchildren, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Remains – Christ The King, Greenmeadows Chapel B

Interment – January 7, 2005, San Rafael Catholic Cemetery after 3 p.m. Mass.

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

METRO MANILA

LAS PIÑAS

FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
187 Real St., Zapote Alabang, Las Piñas
Tels. 873-0507; 873-9084

MAKATI

DON BOSCO CHAPELS
Pasay Road, Makati City; Tel 894-5032 to 34
FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
865 J.P. Rizal St., Poblacion, Makati City, Tels. 890-3558; 899-6191
LOYOLA MEMORIAL CHAPELS
EDSA cor. Bernardino St., Guadalupe, Makati City
Tels 895-1011 to 19
MALABED FUNERAL SERVICE
3-A Coronado St., Guadalupe Viejo, Makati City, Tel. 890-63-18
SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO PARISH
Forbes Park, Makati City, Tel. Nos. 843-8838/30, Fax No. 843-9223
ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGOURI PARISH
Magallanes Village, Makati City; Tels. 852-8228, 852-7284

MALABON

FLORESCO FUNERAL HOME
219 Gen. Luna St., Concepcion, Malabon, Metro Manila
Tels. 2812083, 2813034, 2810522

MANDALUYONG

SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE PARISH
East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City, Telefax 724-4139; 725-2044

MANILA

DULCE MEMORIAL SERVICES
Jose Abad Santos Ave. cor. Dinalupihan St., Manuguit, Manila
Tels. 712-6102, 741-5125, 741-5133, Fax No. 711-3064
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
1501 C.M. Recto Ave. cor. T. Mapua, Manila
Tels. 711-6931 to 35, 732-4795, 732-2627
POPULAR MEMORIAL CHAPELS, INC.
2141 Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz, Manila
Tel. Nos. 254-0867, 254-0839
ST. MARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL
16-15 G. Tuazon cor. Loreto St., Sampaloc, Manila
Tels. 749-3670, 781-1772
UNIVERSAL FUNERAL SERVICE & MEMORIAL CHAPELS
2028 Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz, Manila, Tels. 493-4458, 493-4540
WELINGTON FUNERAL SERVICES
1511 Gen. Luna St., Paco, Manila, Tel. 302-5447

MARIKINA

ERIC SANTIAGO MEMORIAL CHAPELS
26 Bayanbayanan Ave., Concepcion I, Marikina City
Tels. 942-6044, 475-1177
F. SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
9 V. Gomez & 13 V. Gomez St., San Roque, Marikina City
Tels. 646-1725 or 646-1730
LOYOLA MEMORIAL PARK CHAPELS & CREMATORY SERVICES
Loyola Memorial Park, A. Bonifacio Avenue, Tañong, Marikina City
Tels. 941-3196 to 98, 941-3676, Telefax 941-3577
PAKET SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
13 V. Gomez St., San Roque, Marikina City, Tels. 646-1725, 646-1730

PARAÑAQUE

HOLY TRINITY MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat Rd., Sucat, Parañaque City
Tels. 825-1290, 825-1291, Telefax 825-1314
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, SUCAT, INC.
Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque
Tels. 820-1502, 825-9947, 825-8635
LINCOLN MEMORIAL SERVICES, INC.
Ground Floor, JEMP Bldg., J. Cabarrus cor. Monsanto Sts.,
Phase I, BF Commercial Center, Parañaque, Metro Manila
RIZAL FUNERAL HOMES
8187 Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque City
Tels. 820-1376, 826-9082, (0915) 712-1220

PASAY

RIZAL FUNERAL HOMES
438 Cementina St., Pasay City, Tels. 831-1204
VERONICA MEMORIAL HOMES
Official NBI Morgue 517-A Arnaiz St., Pasay City
Tels. 831-3797, 844-7846, 843-1801, 846-4800

PASIG

ARLINGTON EAST THE GARDEN CHAPELS
C. Raymundo St. cor. Mercedes Ave., San Miguel Ave., Pasig City
Tels. 747-8590, 747-5609, Telefax 641-1760
FUNERARIA ANGEL QUIOGUE
No. 67 Pasig Boulevard Extension, Pasig City
Tels. 641-7909, 641-1735

QUEZON CITY

ARLINGTON MEMORIAL CHAPEL
12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City
Tels. 716-1025, 715-1031, 715-1027
LA FUNERARIA LAWRENCE BAQUIRAN
#23 Palo St., Project 2, Quezon City, Tel. 434-3259
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
143 G. Araneta Ave. cor. Kaliraya St., Quezon City
Tels. 749-3806 to 11; 712-3001, 743-6502 or 05
NACIONAL MEMORIAL HOMES
264 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City
Tels. 713-5231 to 35, 714-0307, 714-0868
ST. PETER FUNERAL HOMES
296 Quezon Ave., Quezon City, Tels. 372-5084, 410-9286/87

TAGUIG-PATEROS

FUNERARIA ANGEL QUIOGUE
M. Almeda St., Pateros, Metro Manila, Tels. 642-3010, 633-3602
GARDEN OF MEMORIES MEMORIAL PARK
Calsadang Bago, Pateros, Metro Manila, Tels. 642-6181 to 82
HERITAGE PARK
Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Tels. (DL) 845-2341 to 42; (TL) 845-2334 to 38 loc. 110/112

PROVINCIAL

ALBAY

LIGÑON HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS, INC.
Bugtong Road, Legaspi City, Tels. (052) 820-0168, 0917-2074152

BACOLOD

ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Ground Flr. Rolling Hills Chapel, 27th Lacson St., Mandalagan, Bacolod City
Tel. 433-7132

BAGUIO

LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
79 Naguilian Rd., Baguio City, Tel. (074) 443-3337; (074) 442-3117

BATAAN

SANTUARIO GARDEN & CHAPELS
Talisay Road, Balanga City, Bataan, Tels. (047) 2370643 • 7011766

BULACAN

FUNERARIA TUASON
Poblacion, San Miguel, Bulacan 3011
Tels. (044) 764-0281; 678-0266, (0917) 895-0603

CAVITE

FUNERARIA SAMSON
145 Bayan Luma, Imus, Cavite. Tels. (046) 471-3375; 471-2875
LA FUNERARIA SAPINOSO
G. Tirona St., Imus, Cavite
Tels. (046) 471-3380, (046) 471-4417, (046) 571-1078

CEBU

COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City, Tels. 231-0721, 231-3192
CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Cebu Branch, A.S. Fortuna Street, Banilad, Mandaue City, Cebu
Tels. 346-2543; 346-2601

DAVAO

COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Camus Ext. cor. J. Abad Santos, Davao City
Tels. (082) 227-1201; 227-1258

ILOCOS

LA FUNERARIA LAWRENCE BAQUIRAN
#27 Crisologo St., Vigan, Ilocos Sur
Tel. 722-2730, Cell (0917) 5060136, (0917) 5060145

LAGUNA

SAN RAMON FUNERAL HOMES
2020 Brgy. Dita, Sta. Rosa, Laguna
Tels. (049) 837-5652, 531-4142, Fax (049) 531-4969
ZUASOLA FUNERAL HOMES
Brgy. Del Remedio, San Pablo City, Laguna
Tels. (049) 562-1668, 800-2814 Cel. No. (0917) 5016503

PAMPANGA

FUNERARIA PANGILINAN
Santo Entierro cor. P. Burgos St., Lourdes Sur, Angeles City
Tels. (045) 888-2953, (045) 322-5247

RIZAL

OUR LADY OF PEACE MEMORIAL PARK CHAPEL & SERVICES, INC.
No. 6 Cangma St., Antipolo City 1870
Tel. No. 697-0782, 697-0026, 660-7426, Fax 697-2784
F. SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
Guitnang Bayan, San Mateo, Rizal, Tels. 649-5040, 942-4460
HOLY GARDENS MEMORIAL PARK
Third Level, Unistuppe Complex, Quezon Ave., Angono, Rizal
Tels. 651-1711, 651-0737
MARIAN MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Marcos Hiway, Antipolo, Rizal, Tels. 645-1855

ZAMBALES

DALLUAY MEMORIAL SERVICES
#42 Upper Kalaklan, Olongapo City
Tels. (047) 222-3606, (047) 611-1060, (047) 222-4612; (047) 224-2014
OLONGAPO MEMORIAL PARK
Del Rosario St., Tabacuhan, Sta. Rita, Olongapo
Tel. No. (047) 223-1602

Sunset and evening star,
 And one clear call for me!
And may there be no moaning of the bar,
 When I put to sea,
But such a tide as moving seems asleep,
 Too full for sound and foam,
When that which drew from out the boundless deep
 Turns again home,
For though from out our bourn of Time and Place
 The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot face to face
 When I have crossed the bar.

Alfred, Lord Tennyson

JOSE C. CAMPOS, JR.

(1923 - 2005)
of Dasmariñas, Cavite

Former Supreme Court Associate Justice
Former Court of Appeals Justice
Former Executive Judge of the Regional Trial Court of Pasay City
Former Professor, University of the Philippines College of Law
Former Secretary and Business Executive, University of the Philippines

Has peacefully crossed over to join his Creator on 3 January 2005.

His loving wife **Marita**; his children and their spouses, and his grandchildren **Eddie** and **Rica (Mylin, Mychal, Chit, Eric, Teddy** and **Franki), Pat** and **Rico Domingo (Ikoy, Nachi** and **Minty), Jim** and **Claude (Christina), Willy** and **Belle (Lise** and **Chinggay), Mimi** and **Rene Abadesco (Richie** and **Rizza)** and **Lynchie** and **Anthony Dayao (Mica** and **Greggy)**, his brothers and sisters-in-law **Paulo** and **Ludy, Amado** and **Nena, Cicero** (†) and **Flor, Fernando** and **Linda** (†), **Luis** and **Nina** and **Reynaldo** and **Baby**, his brother-in-law **Jake** and his wife **Aida**, sister-in-law **Lulu** and her husband **Nonoy** (†), his nephews and nieces and other relatives and friends request for prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Sta. Maria della Strada Church, Katipunan Road corner Pansol Street, Quezon City from 4 to 8 January 2005.

The funeral mass will be held on Saturday, 8 January 2005, at 9 o'clock in the morning after which his body will be cremated.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to your preferred charity in the name of the deceased.

THE PARTNERS, ASSOCIATES, OFFICERS AND STAFF OF

BANARIA BANARIA AND COMPANY
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Announce with deepest sorrow the demise of its

FOUNDING PARTNER

DEAN PASCASIO S. BANARIA

(former Chairman, Commission on Audit)

Who passed away on January 3, 2005

His remains lie in state at the Nacional Memorial Homes
Chapel 2A
264 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City

Interment arrangements will be announced later

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

Matthew 10:39

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

ATTY. ANTONIO M. PERY

Who passed away in the Grace of our Lord on December 22, 2004

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all those who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy and who in countless ways, condoled with and comforted us in our hour of bereavement.

WE DESIGN OBITUARY FOR FREE.

MOTORING

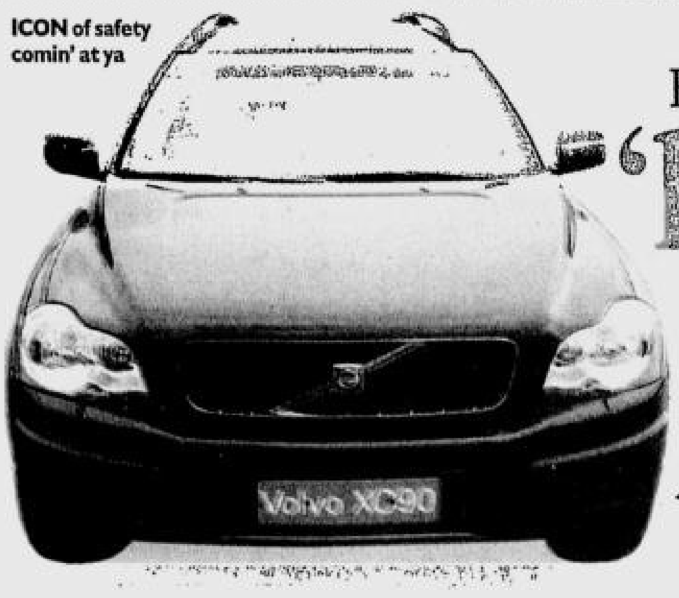
E-mail: pr_motoring@inquirer.com.ph

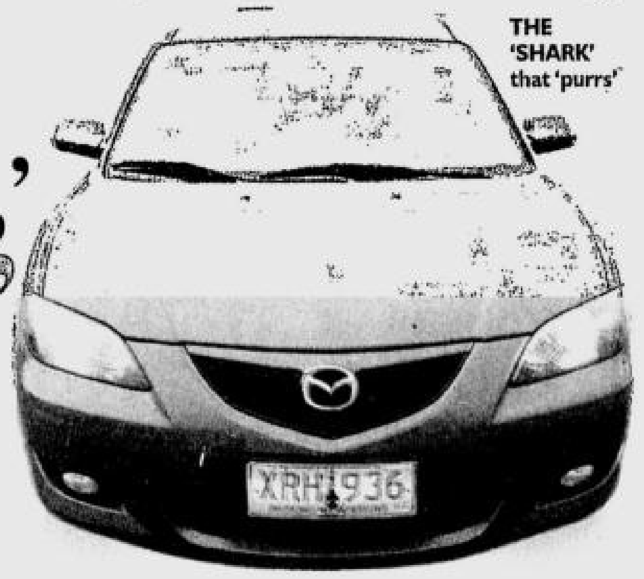
Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

Text us your feedback: inquirer mtr name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

HIGH-TECH DRIVES

'Beast of safety,' 'zoom demon' cap frenzied test-drive season


ICON of safety comin' at ya


THE 'SHARK' that 'purrs'

Text by Tessa R. Salazar
Photos by Alex P. Loinaz

JUST when we thought 2004 would be just another year of the average test drives, the ever-unpredictable automotive industry would spring surprises here and there. And so, Inquirer Motoring has been fortunate, indeed, to be the first among those to experience many of these enjoyable twists and turns in an ever-evolving industry.

2004 could be the "year of the convertible" when Inquirer Motoring got the chance to drive the Mercedes Benz SLK 350 roadster—the 2005 model at that. And before that, we had our hands on BMW Z4 and tried it on just about any "road culture" in the country: Edsa, Intramuros, Manila, in middle-class suburbs, among them.

First to test-drive

And we were the first to drive the latest model of the leading SUV in America for 13 straight years—the Ford Explorer 2005. A true-blue SUV unlike its earlier pickup predecessor, the entry of the Ford Explorer 2005 in the Philippines assured the continued presence of American cars here.

The icing on our cake was the Volvo XC90 2.9L T6 Twin Turbo this last quarter of 2004, and we were the first to test-drive Volvo's cream of the crop. Fresh from the pier and straight to our trembling hands, the XC90 T6 was a fitting symbol of engine power and modern automotive safety as Viking Cars (Volvo's distributor in the Philippines) turned a decade old. And before anyone else could lay their hands on it, we were already doing its paces.

Naturally, we were the first in the country to take pleasure in discovering Volvo's newest innovations—especially in the safety aspect—without necessarily wrecking the vehicle, of course. The features included a notable torque sensor that would act as a safeguard against roll. The roll-over protection system and the roll stability control come as standard equipment. There's also a tire pressure monitoring system (option), rain-sensing windshield wipers and the new flat wiper blades. And take note, there's the water-repellant side-view mirrors.

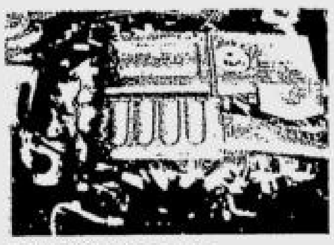
Comparable rivalries

And we couldn't help but compare this baby to its fiercest brand competitor, the BMW X5. We conjured up comparable rivalries: Michael Jordan versus Larry Bird, Ateneo vs La Salle, Ali vs Frazier, etc. We concluded each has its own inherent strengths. The X5 is Dash and the XC90 is Violet of "The Incredibles." One goes for speed and agility and the other excels in protection and subtlety. The XC90 T6 would eat X5's dust, and would generally not do well in sprint competitions. But when the going gets tough, everyone else would do well to emulate the T6. The T6, probably because of all the safety features tightly knit into it, is a heavy vehicle. But it is ready to squat and stay upright if ever you get the crazy idea to roll it.

The XC90 will get you up to speed, of course. The T6 aspect will assure you of that, and you will not be shamed and blinked aside on the Autobahn. Long-time Volvo owners also know that this one's a "keeper," a car with a good resale value—if ever the owners decide to sell them (we reckon secondhand buyers would have to wait a long, long time before they get their hands on a used XC90 T6).

SOPHISTICATED but user-friendly controls

ENGINE 2.9-L T6 twin turbo


ROOM for the zoom

The X5 is Dash and the XC90 is Violet of 'The Incredibles.' One goes for speed and agility and the other excels in protection and subtlety

Volvo designers have also made it a point to keep the dashboard as simple as possible so drivers would concentrate on the road and not scramble with the controls. But at first glance, controls look complicated, but when you're on the road and you settle down, the dashboard "integrates" into your driving style. The driver would feel he or she is at the "center of the universe"—the dashboard gauges all within easy reach. The T6 comes with a GSM phone, park assist, 17" mags and premium sound (surround sound system).

Buy from serious automaker

Just ask so many professionals who own Volvos—doctors, lawyers and the like who already have too much on their minds to busy themselves on getting "dashboard PhDs."

And with that, our second to the last verdict for 2004: If you're a serious driver, buy from a serious auto manufacturer. If you're more concerned about occupancy protection but don't mind flashier cars speeding past you the first kilometer after the "go" signal, the XC90 2.9L T6 is for you. Every carmaker has its own philosophy, its own drive on designing and making its signature cars. Volvo has got its head on right. All around the world, everywhere you go, the human race is keen on self-preservation. Even before riding the most fearsome of roller coasters, you will read at every entrance of a carnival or theme park: Safety First. That is worth every profound peso of a P4.4 million XC90 2.9L T6. (The XC90 2.5L is at P3.895 million.)

The 'icing's in the gearing'

We have not driven any mass-produced car locally that possesses an instantaneous transmission response as the Mazda3. All we can say, after flooring the pedal of this fun toy is, "simply fantastic." The transmission is seamless, and the torque all snug in place. We simply could not discern the shift shock. How we wish all A/T transmissions were like this.

Mazda3 is an efficient commander of its transmission, always vigilant and ready to order the transmission to go to the more efficient gear. And with such quick thinking, we expect the engine to burn fuel better. It even senses the load you've put on the car, so you get the transmission adjustments without necessarily forcing the gas on it.

The additional "manumatic" gearing also allows the driver to "take control" of the transmission.

And what traction control. The body responds like a go-kart. Point the steering wheel anywhere, and that's where you go. The body design already suggests agility and cat-like reflexes: the body cut of a shark, the serious façade of a samurai and the eyes of a fierce cat ready to pounce. It's in fighting form as soon as it leaves the assembly line. The Mazda logo adds a perfect finishing detail to an already aggressive look.

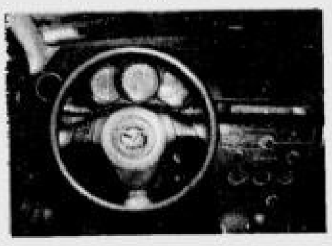
Red, red, red

To complement the aggressive exterior is an equally aggressive ambience inside. The dominant color all around the dashboard is red. Mazda avoids "black holes" wherever possible. Funny thing is, you don't get the temporary blindness after being mesmerized by all the red illuminations. Feng-shui fanatic Chinese would love this.

The stove-type switches of the air conditioner and audio entertainment is easy to operate. On the steering wheel are the thumb controls for the audio entertainment system.

Stiff ride, so-so fog lights

Everything looks perfect, until you switch the fog lamps on. Seemingly installed as an afterthought, the fog lamps seem to cause more annoyance than convenience, especially for oncoming motorists. First, we couldn't find a control switch to properly angle the fog beam (the light comes out scattered, lacking focus). Second, that lamp causes unreasonable glare. We're not singling out Mazda3, and we speak of many auto manufacturers (both local and multinational) who have grown so fond of installing fog lamps in this country, as if we were the fog capital of the world.


HANDS on, eyes off controls

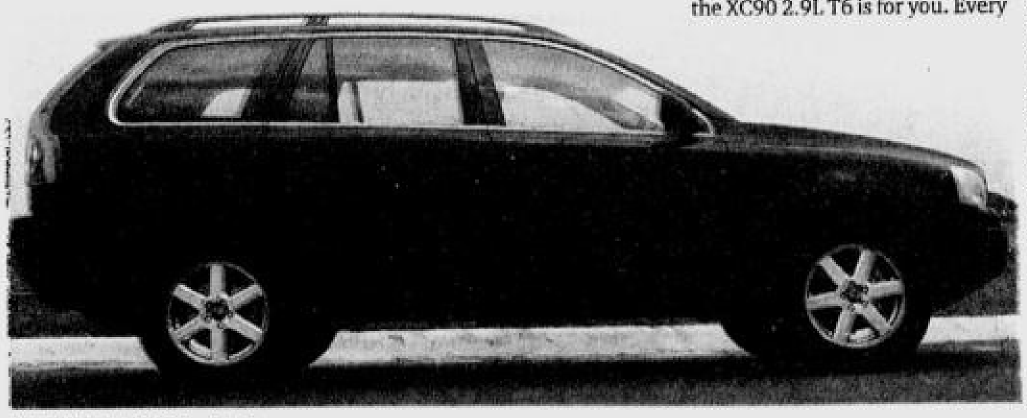
We only see fog in the Mountain Province, or maybe during the cold months in the Tagaytay area. But in Metro Manila and the rest of the country, you would only get to see blinding fog (or smog) the first few hours after the new year revelries (you would be a bit cuckoo to be driving at such a dangerous time of the year, even).

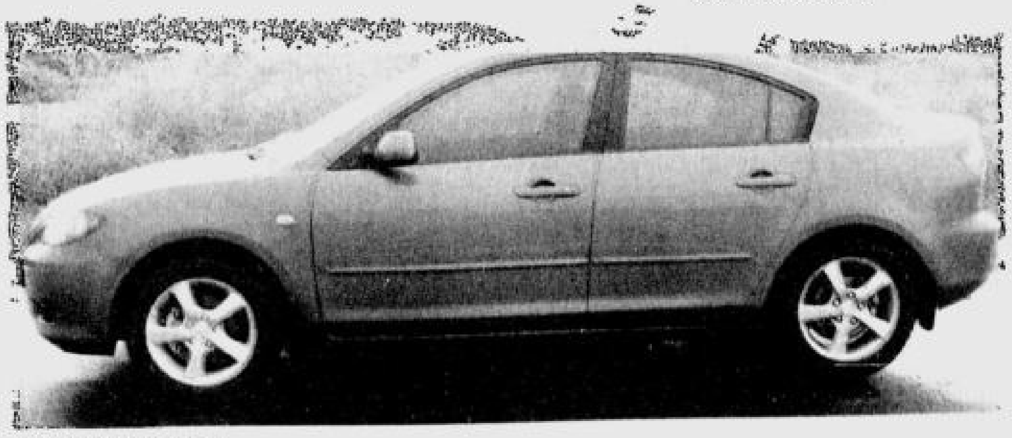
But if you really feel the need to install fog lights, there's a proper way of doing it. Generally, fog lamp beams should be low and illuminate the immediate road surface the vehicle is on and not everything ahead the car (that's the job of the headlamp). In Mazda3's case, the fog lamp beams are misdirected to the sides and corners.

The ride is a bit stiff. You will feel the bumps. But the young market Mazda3 is intended to attract can take this, of course. The handling is great, complementing the quick reflexes and exuberance of youth. You know right away that Mazda3 is really intended for the sporty crowd.

To its credit, Mazda3 knows the physique of its drivers well enough to pattern the driver's seat and steering wheel according to their needs. It really is comfortable to drive, and the hours of driving just melt away pleasurably. Furthermore, the telescopic steering wheel adjusts perfectly to long or short arms.

Verdict: It's a near-perfect fusion of a four-door sedan and a sports car at a price adjusted for the masses. For P719,000 to P915,000, buy the Madza3, take out the fog lamps and install them instead on your garage ceiling. Now you have your own little showroom at home.


'FASHIONABLY dashing'


DASHING fashionably

Mod nation

COMMENTARY

By Andre Palma

THE FILIPINO love affair with the automobile is well celebrated. Our blood-borne fascination for cars, together with our knack for personalization and native ingenuity, makes for a zealous and vibrant relationship between the Filipino and his motor vehicle.

One of our strongest Philippine pop culture icons, the adorable jeepney, is a clear statement of love, individuality and craftsmanship that would be equally at home at both Jesse James' Monster Garage and Xzibit's Pimp My Ride. These vehicles are a far cry from the Willy's Jeeps and Weapons Carriers of the Second World War that they were based on. Built from scratch, save for the surplus powerplant, the jeepney can be classified, by and large, as a custom kit-car/wagon/pickup. Equally bespoke is the jeepney's cousin, the owner-type jeep (or OTJs, as I like to call them).

If England has Caterham and Morgan; the Philippines has Malagueña and the sadly defunct Sarao. Samples of these can be seen plying our roads every day, as individually crafted as the owners, powered by myriad of engines; anything from an old Toyota 2E to a Mitsubishi 4G63 from a donor Galant Gti. The possibilities and permutations of these locally assembled custom-made cars are endless, and often fascinating. As a form of self expression, the Filipino's car is his own rolling canvas.

Automotive modification

Our cultural compulsion to create the magical from the mundane is also apparent abroad, where Filipinos have undeniably helped shape the automotive modification scene. We can be proud of R.J. De Vera, editor at large of import car tuning mega-magazine, Super Street. More than just a glossy journalist, this Filipino-American is a big-name mover and shaker in the import tuning scene. Heavily into the promotion of the culture of import (often Japanese) car modification, Mr. De Vera has his own signature line of aftermarket wheels, stylishly branded RO_JA. The import tuning icon also made an appearance somewhere in the first 15 minutes of the boy-racer cult-classic, "The Fast and the Furious."

Another notably Filipino export to the West Coast import scene is the innocuously named Toyota tuning giant, Toysport. Pioneered by Jojie Luz and his relatives, the firm evolved from serving the modification needs of individual customers, which began in 1980, to the competition specification preparation of Toyota race cars, both factory and customers', then to finally working with other vehicle manufacturers, like Honda and Nissan, on special projects needing the company's particular touch. Toysport continues to carry one of the widest choices of aftermarket parts for Toyotas, including parts for luxury marquee spin-off Lexus and the exciting youth-marketed Scion brand.

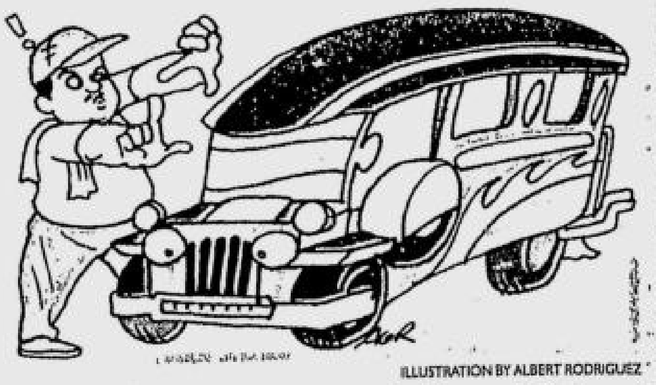


ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

From surplus to superchargers it seems the Filipino has the ability to make things work. So the next time you find yourself in Banawe or Evangelista, and wonder why so many people are having something, anything, done to their perfectly fine vehicles; remember that we are a nation of tinkers.

* * *

For comments, e-mail the author at scandyflick@yahoo.com.

Test your car IQ

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

TWO thousand and four ended with a somewhat muffled bang five days ago, but it's not too late for a year-end car IQ test. Jog your remembrance of the year past on cars and answer the following questions:

1. Which minivan brand was the most expensive in Manila last year?

a. Toyota Previa b. Ford Chateau c. Chrysler Town & Country

2. How many brands were competing in the compact SUV market in 2004?

a. eight b. nine c. ten

3. These three were sold with a choice of either a 1.6- or a 2.0-liter engine, but only one has a manual transmission. Which one?

a. Honda Civic b. Mazda3 c. Ford Lynx

4. How many small sedan brands were offered with either a 1.6- or a 1.8-liter engine?

a. three b. four c. five

5. Which of the these 3.0-liter, 6-cyl. midsize sedans has the highest horsepower output?

a. Toyota Camry b. Honda Accord c. Nissan Cefiro

6. Which carmaker was the first to sell a motor vehicle in Manila with a CRDi diesel engine?

a. Hyundai b. Toyota c. Isuzu

7. What is the engine displacement of the Kia Picanto?

a. 1.0 liters b. 1.1 liters c. 1.2 liters

8. Which Jaguar sedan has an aluminum monocoque body and air spring suspension?

a. X-Type b. S-Type c. XJ

9. Which car manufacturer created the Prius and is the leader in hybrid technology development?

a. Honda b. Toyota c. Ford

10. Which full-size SUV sold in Manila had the highest price?

a. BMW X5 b. Hummer H1 c. Range Rover

11. Two of these subcompact car models were sold with either a 1.3- or a 1.5-liter engine. Which one wasn't?

a. Toyota Vios b. Honda City c. Honda Jazz

ANSWERS: 1-b. The Town & Country was priced at P2,150,000 or P412,000 more than the P1,738,000 Previa and P300,000 more than the Ford Chateau.

2-c. Ten brands: BMW X3, Ford Escape, Honda CR-V, Land Rover Freelander, Mazda Tribute, Mitsubishi Outlander, Nissan X-Trail, Subaru Forester, Suzuki Grand Vitara and Toyota RAV4. I consider the Kia Sorento (3.5 liter V6 gasoline or CRDi diesel) a midsize SUV.

3-c. Ford Lynx RS was sold with MT only, while the 2.0-liter Civic and Mazda3 had automatic transmissions.

4-c. Five brands: Audi A4, Chevrolet Optra, Mitsubishi Lancer, Nissan Sentra and Toyota Altis.

5-b. The Accord produces 240 ps max horsepower while the Camry and Cefiro deliver 212 and 220, respectively.

6-c. The Isuzu Trooper was the first with a turbocharged, intercooled, common rail direct injection diesel engine.

7-b. The Picanto has a 1.1-liter engine.

8-c. The XJ Series has the highest price range among the Jaguar sedans perhaps because of these features.

9-b. Toyota is so advanced in hybrid technology that both Nissan and Ford are developing their own hybrid vehicles using Toyota's system under license.

10-c. The Range Rover V8 was being sold for P6,950,000. Second costliest was the Hummer H1 at P6 million while the X5 3.0d Executive and 4.4i had the same P5,492,000 price tag.

11-c. The Jazz was offered with only one type of engine: the 1.3 liter i-DSI (intelligent Dual and Sequential Ignition) while City buyers could choose a 1.5-liter VTEC engine or the same 1.3-liter i-DSI. The Vios was sold with either a 1.3- or a 1.5-liter VVTi powerplant.

(Reference for car prices: December 2004 C! Magazine)

* * *

OOPS! Starting the New Year with a correction is embarrassing, but here goes anyway. Last week, I wrote that the forthcoming pickup truck-based Nissan Paladin/XTerra (based on the Frontier) and Isuzu Adventure Master (based on the D-Max) SUVs will enjoy an advantage over the Ford Everest because they run on diesel fuel. There is no such advantage since the Everest is built on the same platform and has the same 2.5-liter intercooled turbo diesel engine as the Ford Ranger pickup, Asean version. My apologies to the Ford Group.

* * *

(E-mail comments to asevilla@inquirer.com.ph)

TOYOTA
Ford
CHRYSLER
Mercedes-Benz
HYUNDAI
PORSCHE
BMW
The Ultimate Driving Machine
PORSCHE
MITSUBISHI MOTORS
wake up and drive
KIA
mazda
Audi
NISSAN
CHEVROLET
JAGUAR
LAND ROVER
VOLVO for life
ISUZU
SUZUKI
HONDA
SUBARU

THE PRIUS represents the next generation of clean running practical cars designed for urban and suburban drivers.

PEERING through the Prius' breakthrough powerplant

Toyota to make Prius in China

Text and photos by Charles E. Buban

THE CAR that scores points for efficiency and environmental friendliness around the world will ply China's streets by the end of 2005. How will this development impact other Asian neighbors?

Late last year, Japan's top automaker, Toyota Motor Corp. announced it will invest about $28.5 million on the production of its popular Prius hybrid sedan in China, the world's fastest-growing auto market.

With production targeted at 2,000 to 3,000 units a year, the Prius will be assembled by a subsidiary of China's largest automaker, First Automotive Works Group Corp. in Changchun, Jilin Province.

Toyota's eco-friendly vehicle strategy in China comes after Beijing issued new automobile policy last June, supporting the development of next-generation hybrid and other environment-conscious cars.

First time

"If the plan goes through, this will be the first time Toyota will be producing the world's first mass-produced electric/gasoline hybrid vehicle outside of Japan," informed Vince Socco, Marketing Services Department GM of Toyota Motor Asia Pacific Pte. Ltd.

He believes the coming of the Prius in the region is a significant step in promoting the widespread use of this high-quality and high-performance hybrid vehicle.

Said Socco: "The Prius is an impressive technological statement. It sets the standard for the most efficient hybrid on the road today and will definitely impact on a region where urban air pollution is alarmingly high."

Conjoining

The Prius' source of power is a conjoining of a gasoline engine and an electric motor that Toyota refers to as hybrid synergy drive.

The electric motor tucked alongside the engine helps get the vehicle moving and provides additional power during acceleration at higher speeds.

The batteries for the motor can be recharged by the engine, or from energy absorbed during braking.

This powerplant gives the car an outstanding fuel consumption of 3.92 L/100 km (city) and 4.28 L/100 km (highway) and a modest 10.5 seconds acceleration from zero to 96 km.

On sale in 1997

The Prius first went on sale in Japan in 1997 and was introduced to the worldwide market in 2000.

The worldwide popularity of the Prius soared to new heights after its second generation was launched in 2003.

With a larger passenger compartment, bigger and more useful cargo area, larger tires, increased performance from its 57 kW, 77 hp gasoline engine and 50 kW electric motor, and a price of around $20,500 (about P1.15 million here), the Prius became a hot seller.

In Europe and the United States, motorists must wait about six months to buy the vehicle while in Japan, the wait is about one to two months.

The car was even voted 2005 European Car of the Year, on top of a similar award in the USA early this year (Motor Trend Car of the Year title for 2004 and the North American Car of the Year award for 2004).

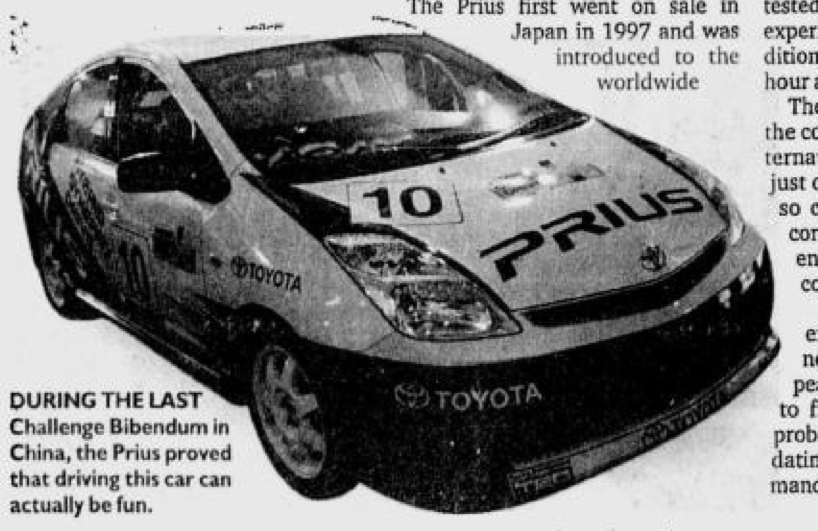
Real-world approach

Last October, the Prius clearly showed why it is a market favorite when it went to China to participate in the annual Challenge Bibendum, considered one of the premier global events that showcases the auto industry's progress with environment-friendly technologies.

The Prius, along with others, were tested in the "real world" where they experienced a variety of driving conditions while maintaining a 70 km per hour average speed.

The 88-km rally (organized with the cooperation of the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile) was just one of events as participants also competed in slalom and speed consistency tests which were taken into account in the overall computations.

Not surprisingly, the Prius emerged as one of the five winners, thus greatly boosting its appeal to a country that is now trying to find ways to keep its pollution problem in check while accommodating its population's surging demand for more cars.



DURING THE LAST Challenge Bibendum in China, the Prius proved that driving this car can actually be fun.

A sight that will move you

LIVING up to the superlatives that have been endowed the brand by automobile pundits, Mercedes-Benz has come out with yet another jaw-dropping sensation, its new sports Roadster that is the SLK-Class to succeed its sensational first-generation model. This time it's got a sportier edge in terms of design and engineering, wielding more power, affords its passengers more safety and definitely offers more driving pleasure.

In other words, no other sports car packs as much emotional appeal.

It's introducing a lot of firsts in the SLK-Class: sleeker and niftier design, thermotronic air-climate control, bi-xenon headlamps with the unique seven-speed automatic transmission 7G-Tronic.

The body is 72 millimeters longer and 65 mm wider than its predecessor.

The SLK-Class comes in three different engine variants from the 120 kW/163 hp to 265 kW/360 hp. The range includes—for the first time in this vehicle class—an eight-cylinder power unit from Mercedes-AMG. The V6 engine in the SLK 350, meanwhile, develops 200 kW/272 hp and delivers impressively dynamic driving pleasure.

Design highlights

Most notable in its design is its sporty dynamism that's coupled with styling elements that are inspired by motorsport. The long bonnet, flat windscreen, wide doors and short rear may be typical of roadsters but they are given extra attention and emphasis by the new SLK, thanks to its 30-mm longer wheelbase, clear tapering of the front and rear ends and a wedge-shaped silhouette.

Racing cars are an obvious inspiration, with its arrow-shaped nose, wing profiles in the radiator grille and the twin tailpipe system.

Inside, the SLK has been completely redesigned and upgraded which is most apparent in the use of choice materials. Switches, buttons and trim elements with silver-colored surfaces to contrast the dark tones of the dashboard are its hallmark interior design innovations. Six shades for the leather trim, or any one of 12 Designo appointment colors are also offered.

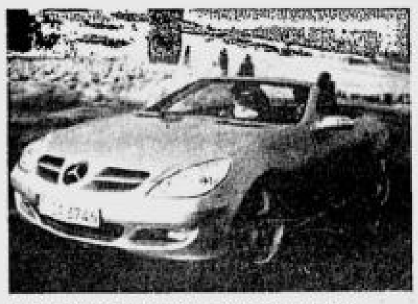
A moving performance

This Mercedes is unquestionably exquisite in terms of looks. Is it as exquisite in terms of performance? The answer, of course, is a resounding yes. With the SLK Class, Mercedes-Benz proves anew that it's a trendsetter and technological leader in this category of sports cars.

It's bodywork has been sculptured to roadster perfection owing to the drag-coefficient (Cd) value (0.32). The body is rigid as well and has a fuel tank capacity of 70 liters.

The much-touted innovation that is the vario-roof, which forms most of the visual allure of the SLK ever since it was introduced in 1996, has been perfected by the Sindelfingen engineers. It now opens and closes more quickly. The technology transforms the roadster into a coupé in as fast as 22 seconds. It also takes up less space in the boot, thanks to the pivoting rear window.

When the vario-roof is open, boot capacity stands at 208 liters according to the VDA method—63 liters more than in the outgoing model. A further new feature now makes it possible to operate the vario-roof by an infra-red remote control function in the car key (optional).



THE NEW Mercedes-Benz SLK Class

ITS vario-roof now opens and closes as fast as 22 seconds.

Redefining safety

Standards now include head/thorax sidebags, adaptive front airbags and two-stage belt force limiters. These work by adapting to the severity of the accident. For example, when a side impact happens, the newly developed head/thorax airbags inflate to protect the head and upper body of the passengers. A special sensor also triggers the side airbags and both belt tensioners if the car rolls over. Robust steel tubes in the A-pillars and solid roll-over bars behind the seats offer additional protection in this type of accident.

To top it all off, the upgraded SLK-Class is made of a large proportion of high-strength steel alloys (40 percent).

Engines

Mercedes-Benz is the first manufacturer that obliges drivers who have more sporting ambitions by adding an eight-cylinder powerplant to the mix. The V8 unit gives the SLK 55 AMG class-leading output (265 kW/360 hp), torque (510 Newton meters) and acceleration (0-100 km/h: 4.9 seconds) figures. The top-of-the-line engine is linked up as standard with the newly developed seven-speed automatic transmission 7G-Tronic, which the driver can choose to operate using steering-wheel gearshift buttons.

Peak torque is available as low down as 2,400 rpm and remains constant up to 5,000 rpm. This provides the key to powerful acceleration and impressive mid-range sprints. The SLK 350 reaches 100 km/h from a standstill in just 5.6 seconds (with 7G-Tronic: 5.5 seconds) and accelerates from 60 to 120 km/h in 8.7 seconds (with 7G-Tronic: 5.1 seconds).

Belated congratulations

FULL TANK

Al Mendoza

IF only for the record, I congratulate the winners of last year's Henry Ford Awards for motoring journalism. Although I don't agree 100 percent about the rules of the contest, still I commend Ford for its pioneering effort in recognizing the efforts of our journalists immersed all year round in the motoring industry. In fact, because of the Henry Ford Awards, Nissan has followed suit. And, seemingly, Nissan has improved on the mechanics of choosing the year's best stories—but that is another story.

And the winners of the Henry Ford Awards are:

- Best Published Photograph for Magazine—"Drift Away" by James Deakin, C! Magazine.
- Best Published Photograph for Broadsheet—"A Hundred Years Young" by Ulysses Ang, Manila Times.
- Best Auto Event Story—"Life Begins with the S40" by Vernon Sarne, Manila Times.
- Best Auto Test Drive—"Nerdz Jazz Wanna Have Fun" by Andy Leuterio, Philippine Star.
- Best Online Feature Story—"Safety First: Driving with your most precious cargo" by Jason Ang, Motioncars.com.
- Best Auto TV Feature—"Mazda 3 Test Drive" by Jose Romualdez, Auto Extreme, RPN 9.
- Best Auto Industry Story—"Impulse Import Buying" by James Deakin, C! Magazine.
- Best Motoring Column—"The Elephant behind the Driver" by Aida Sevilla-Mendoza, Philippine Daily Inquirer.
- Best Ford Feature Story—"My so-called life on the assembly line" by Vernon Sarne, Manila Times.

The judges were lawyer Lilia de Lima, director general, Philippine Economic Zone Authority; Antonio Mapa, president, Automobile Association of the Philippines; Tony Antonio, president, National Press Club; Butch Dua, president, Sacre Bleu Ford Auto Club; and Dr. Ricardo Sigua, director, National Center for Transportation Studies of UP Diliman.

My gratitude to Cherry Ramirez of Ford and Reggie Olalia and Angel de Guzman of Ogilvy Public Relations for supplying me the facts.

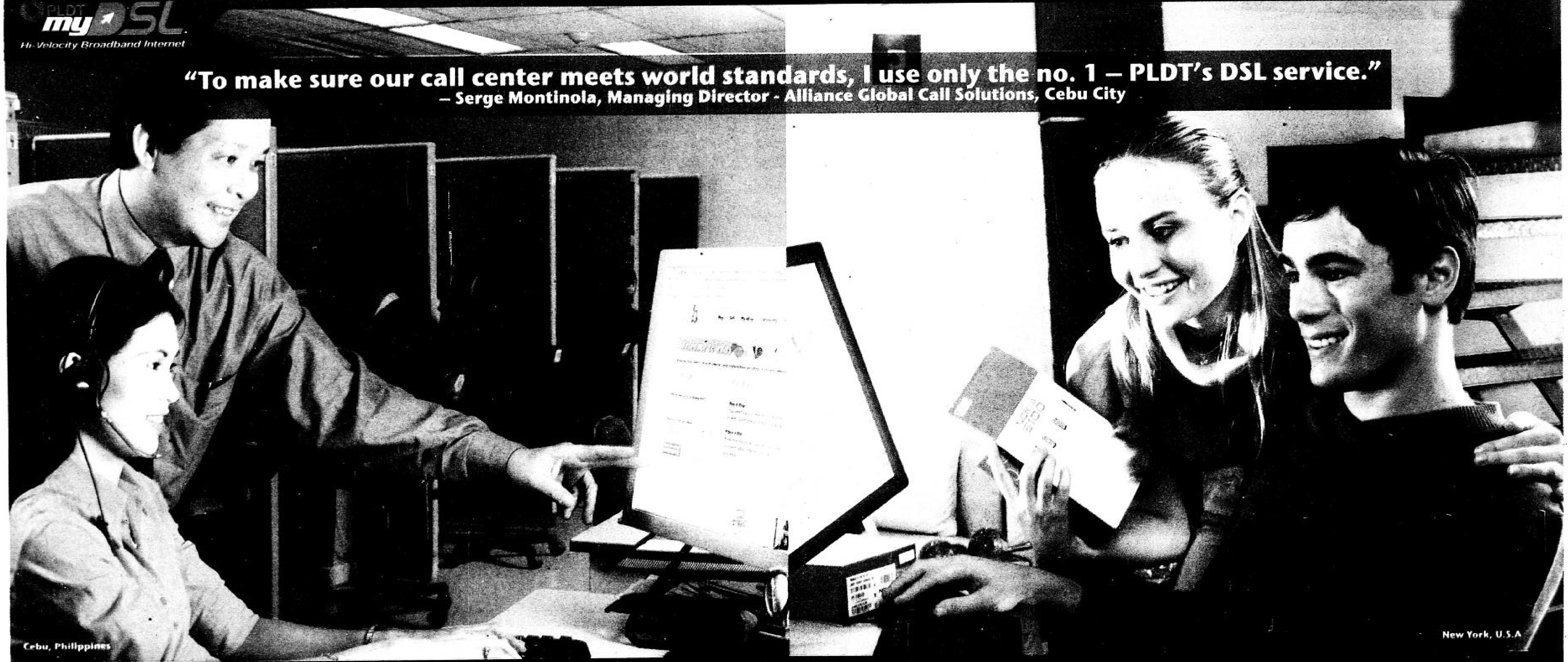
* * *

QUOTE ME: Avoid driving in the expressway with your stomach full. Happy New Year.

WINDSHIELD
CRACK REPAIR
U.S. Pat.
Up to any Long, Guaranteed!
LTO APPROVED!
NOT REPLACEMENT! EMISSION CTR2
SALE: ANALYZER 150T / OPACIMETER 215T
• RESTORES CLARITY 80-90%, STRENGTH 100%
• REMOVE GLASS SCRATCHES, ACID RAINS & SILICON BUILD-UP
• CLEANS & SANITIZES CAR A/C IN 45 MINS. (U.S.)
• PAINTLESS DENT REMOVAL • REPAIR LEAKS & DEFOGGER
CALL NOW BEFORE ITS TOO LATE!
MANILA MIDWEST #40 Kalayaan, Ave., Q C Tels.: 926-6829/435-6391
Nat'l. Rd. Bangiad, Taytay, Rizal Tels.: 286-2925/286-0362
Km. 16 Aguinaldo Hi-way, Talaba VII, Bacoor, Cavite
Tel.: (046) 970-2464 Cell# 0922-5322001 ILOILO: 337-3782
Cell# 0920-3102154 Website http://members aol com/hilecom
Bring this ad for P150 OFF except on Emission Test. Expiration date 03/31/05

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

PLDT myDSL
Hi-Velocity Broadband Internet



“To make sure our call center meets world standards, I use only the no. 1 – PLDT’s DSL service.”

– Serge Montinola, Managing Director - Alliance Global Call Solutions, Cebu City

Keeping customers happy is the reason for being for Serge’s company. He runs a call center that caters to customers in the United States. This is why his company relies on none other than Cebu’s leading broadband service provider, PLDT myDSL. Fast and reliable connections make sure they’re connected with their U.S. office all day, all night. And the unparalleled bandwidth that they can only get from myDSL gave him even greater results. “The U.S. Office now maintains its database here in Cebu. Everything is kept here and our counterparts in the U.S. access all the data thru DSL.” This translates to more business opportunities for Serge. “myDSL has been very consistent in their service. They have helped our company grow and soon, we will be expanding from a 25-seat call center to a larger operation.” No wonder 8 out of 10 choose myDSL over any other broadband provider.

Get a free printer and PC when you subscribe now!

Package	Speed	Monthly Fee	# of free PCs
Smallbiz Lite	512 kbps	4,000	ONE
Smallbiz Jr.	768 kbps	8,000	TWO
Smallbiz Sr.	1 Mbps	14,500	THREE

Printer is available in GMA, Cebu and Davao.
*All prices are VAT exclusive
Promo is open to all business customers only.

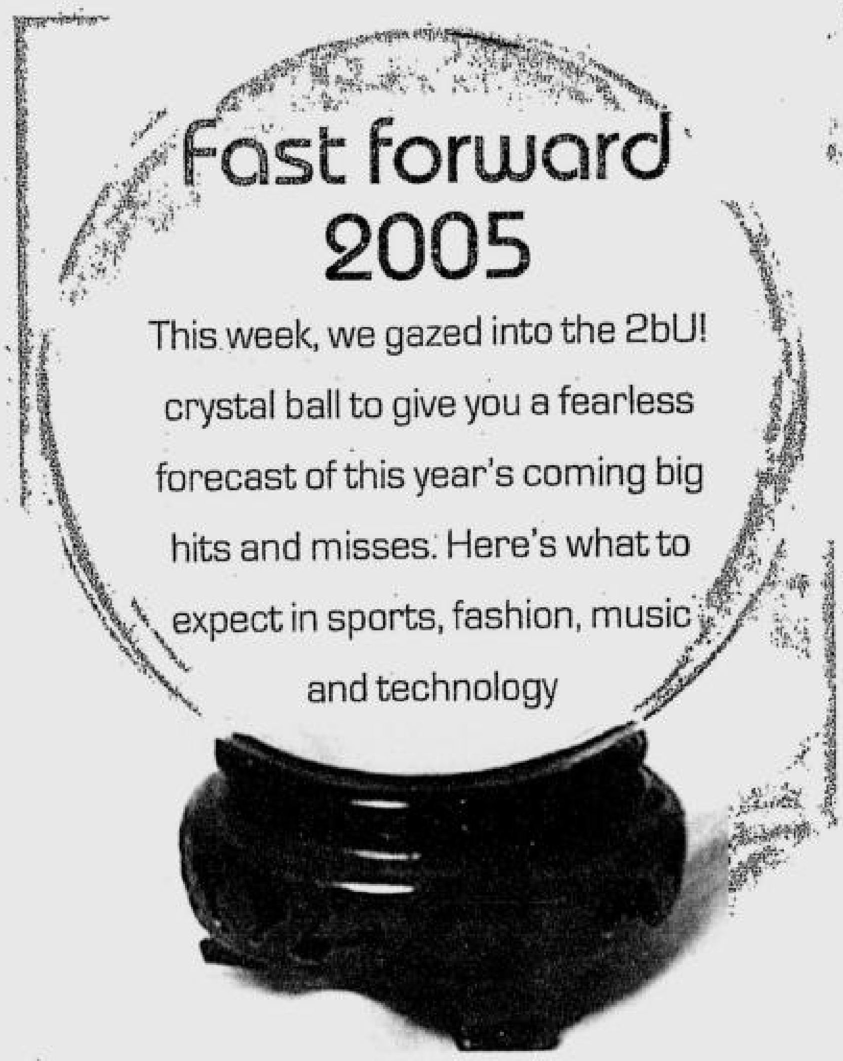
PLDT

Discover what PLDT myDSL can do for your business. Go to www.msn.pldtmypad.com or call 171 for Business Package inquiries.

Islander

WEDNESDAY,
JANUARY 5, 2005
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
LIFESTYLE
2bU!
to be young • to be you • to know you • To be you!
For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph
Text us your feedback:
inquirer life name/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)
Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**
Chief of Correspondents **Pam Pastor**

P99
DUNKIN' DONUTS
RAINBOW
Choco Rings



Fast forward 2005

This week, we gazed into the 2bU! crystal ball to give you a fearless forecast of this year's coming big hits and misses. Here's what to expect in sports, fashion, music and technology

Help wanted

LAST week, we watched with horror as the death toll rose and rose after killer tsunamis struck countries around the Indian Ocean. We witnessed videos taken by tourists whose much-anticipated vacations became a ticket to hell.

We saw homes, buildings and villages turn into ruins; we witnessed lifeless bodies piled on top of one another. Our hearts broke as we saw children crying for their parents, and parents crying for their children.

There are countless people out there with no food to eat, no clean water to drink, no medicines to make them better, no clothes to change into, no blanket to keep them warm at night.

So we asked ourselves, how can we help?

Unicef Philippines accepts cash donations for the tsunami victims. You can call them at 7581000.

You can also send your donations through Red Cross by depositing to their BPI account number 4991-0025-32.

If you have a credit card, Amazon.com allows you to send donations directly to American Red Cross. As of press time, they have already raised over $12 million. For information about the American Red Cross, please e-mail info@usa.redcross.org.

CHANGE THE WORLD

Other websites have compiled links to organizations accepting aid for the tsunami victims.

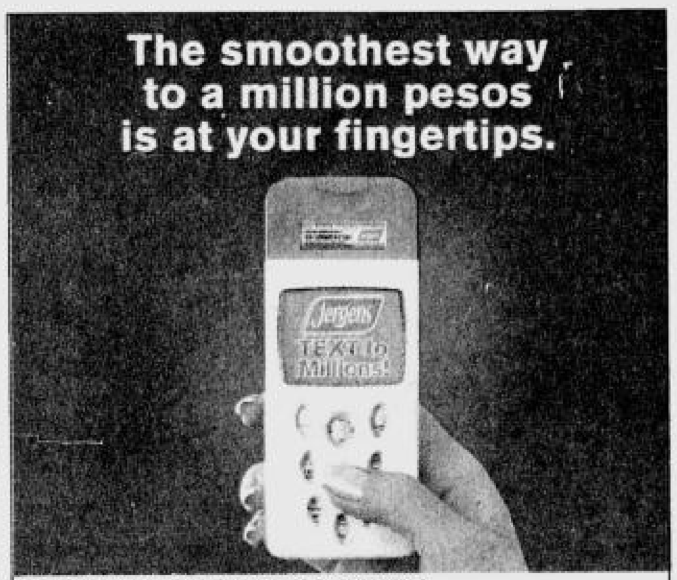
Visit http://www.cnn.com/2004/WORLD/asiapcf/12/28/tsunami.aidsites/index.html

http://www.google.com/tsunami_relief.html

http://tsunamihelp.blogspot.com/

Every peso counts, every prayer will make a difference. Please be as generous as you can.

ASHAMED
OF YOUR
DARK
UNDER-
ARMS?
T (02) 3744201
T (02) 4118319
09177907525


The smoothest way
to a million pesos
is at your fingertips.

Get a chance to win free cellphone loads and P1 Million!
First time texters must register as follows:
BNT REG <City or Town>/<Province>/<Name>/<Complete Address>/<Sex>/<Age>/<Code>
Send to 399 for Smart & Talk 'N Text subscribers or 2350 for Globe and Touch Mobile subscribers.
See posters for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2105 Series of 2004

You are invited to the
BIGGEST
Tupperware®
PARTY!

January 05, 2005 (Wednesday)
World Trade Center, CCP Complex, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City

Tupperware products at great unbelievable prices!
Raffle items and product give-aways!

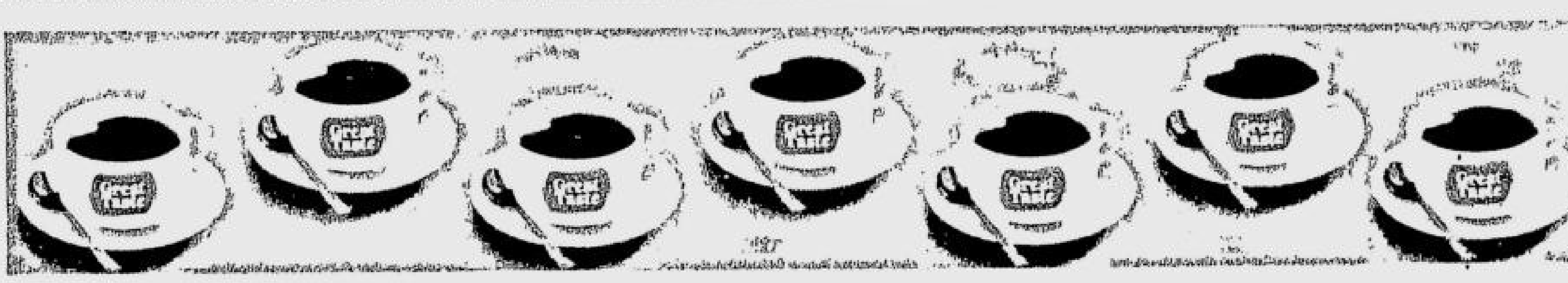
NEW, REVOLUTIONARY and TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED PRODUCT LAUNCH

"Taste of Tupperware" Cooking demonstration plus valuable tips and information on food serving and preparation

Program:
8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Salesforce Rally (exclusive to TW Managers, Consultants and their guests)

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
2:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Tupperware Trade Fair and Exhibit

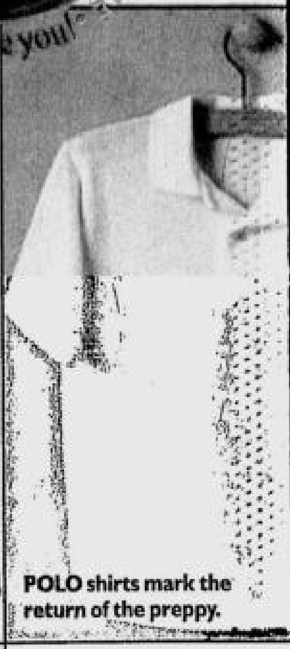
Come and Join the Fun and get
FREE!
souvenir items!


Ang hanap mong
sunod-sunod
na sarap ng
kape...

FEATHER necklaces are the must-have accessory.

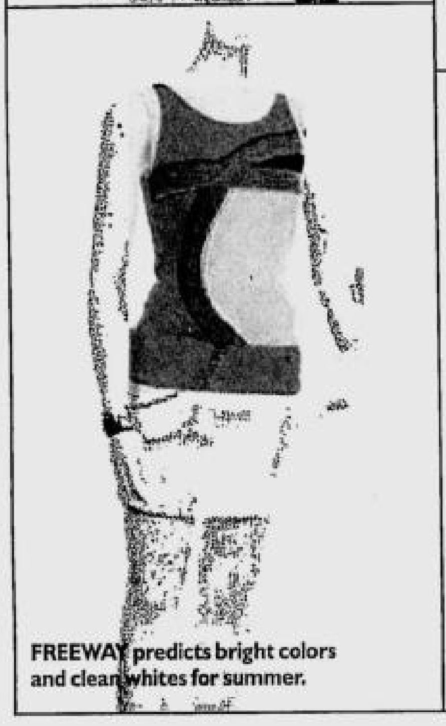
PAISLEY PRINTS revive the peasant look.

DISTRESSED and embellished jeans



POLO shirts mark the return of the preppy.

CABLE-KNIT sweaters complete the rich-girl look.



FREEWAY predicts bright colors and clean whites for summer.

DETAILS such as patchwork, pockets, embroidery and buttons will predominate.

THE YEAR will see a lot of bl

Prints and pastels for the first quarter

By Bianca Consunji
2bU! Correspondent

IF you're still wearing braided leather belts and dog collar necklaces, then something's wrong. It means you haven't updated your wardrobe for the past couple of years.

To help you deal with your fashion crisis, we asked the top retail brands to give their fashion forecasts for the first quarter of 2005.

Freeway

Freeway greets the start of the year with Oriental-inspired clothes, focusing on Chinese and Japanese-inspired tops, skirts, dresses and accessories. February sees the entry of the bohemian-inspired paisley print incorporated in flowing skirts and tops, as well as checkered prints and color blocking.

The summer season brings on bright, fruity colors and clean whites with tropical and Jamaican vibes, with lots of Hawaiian and surfer-inspired prints and styles. Expect board shorts, tank tops, and short skirts. Emphasis is on accessories and accents as well.

Chocolate Clothing Company

Chocolate's first salvo is all about glamour and romance. Its spring collection combines Roaring 20's glamour with '40s chic tailoring and '50s silhouettes, resulting in a lot of fresh, feminine color, vintage prints and detail, and Old World styling. The looks are inspired by movies such as "The Great Gatsby."

Chocolate's in-house brands—Grab, Mink, Endless Spirit, and Earth Angel—each have distinct looks that can easily be mixed and matched. Grab or Mink jeans, for example, can be paired with an Endless Spirit lace camisole or an Earth Angel polo top. Beaded flapper skirts and cropped pants are also highlights of the collection.

The color palette includes yummy shades such as amethyst, glacier, orange blossom, peppermint & strawberry, accented with brighter highlights of lagoon, nectar and lemon, and warm pastels in cream, sugar, and pink.

Genevieve Gozum/YRYS

For this retail brand, fashion for the spring season is strongly influenced by the prairie/ethnic look with a little bit of cowboy integrated into the clothes. But don't get your 10-gallon hats or g-strings out just yet, as this season's clothes are still very feminine.

The must-have items at the start of the season are layered tulle skirts, deconstructed and embellished jeans (still with low waistlines), and dresses with electric pleats.

The peasant look makes a comeback with tunic-style tops, although the new ones will be more figure-friendly than the loose blouses that were such a hit three years ago. The focus of the whole look is on the print.

Feathers are must-have accessories, especially for necklaces.

Details Trading

Details welcomes the ye
blue in all colors, from baby
blues. Skirts, blouses, cover
covered with intricate, fem
as lace, crochet and embro
den prints finish off the very

Folded & Hung

F&H goes for the preppy
season. Its first collection is
try club wear and elite sport
ble knits, contrast piping d
and dresses dominate the
lilac, lime, white, yellow, a
ange.

Countryside-inspired pie
chet trim and eyelets, brass
wear pockets wrap up the lo

E-mail biancaconsunji@y

More techie times ahead

By the editors of Speed Magazine

IT'S THE start of yet another year for groundbreaking technologies and innovations. What's there to look forward to in the realm of communications? Information technology? You surely won't get this sort of info from IT companies since, understandably, they don't want to preempt upcoming new releases slated for the year.

But we can make educated guesses based on the latest developments and sources in the different industries. Herewith, dear reader, is our reading of the year ahead. Read on and know thy future!

Wi-Fi

Filipinos love malls, there's no doubt about that. Surely, techheads don't want to be left out, right?

Shangri-La Plaza was the first mall to offer complete Wi-Fi deployment. Other malls are following suit. Why? Simply because coffee shops are getting overcrowded from accommodating both caffeine junkies and those who like their Internet connections wireless. Couple this with the fact that users carrying Wi-Fi-enabled laptops and handhelds have increased significantly.

When it will happen? Sooner than you think, if Wi-MAX doesn't get here first.

MP3

Sony's announcement that there will be full support for MP3 in their upcoming portable digital music players just goes to show that MP3 is the music format of the decade. Of course, we can expect another surprise from Apple with their iPod line this year.

On-line gaming

Ragnarok, Mu, Tantra, Gunbound, Khan. Expect even more players and games this year.

Notebooks

Thank Taiwan for making notebooks more affordable. You can now order a rebranded ECS A535 at the Wal-Mart website for $548 (about P30,000). It's Wi-FI-ready, with 128 MB RAM, 40-gig drive, DVD player and a gigahertz Athlon CPU. Nothing can be cheaper than that.

64-bit computers

Cyber-rocket lovers rejoice! That's because 64-bit desktop PCs will gain momentum because of the availability of an operating system and applications. Finally.

Bye-bye to cables

Wireless USB will finally come true. This was announced by Intel at the IDF forum in Taiwan last summer. Hopefully 2005 will bring the new standard to our desktops.

Still no 3G

Our government and the telcos are still fleshing out the rules and regulations covering the next generation mobile. Ergo, more waiting time for us. And if it does happen, expect costs to be more breathtaking than the technology.

War of the consoles

Newer and slimmer models of Nintendo and Sony PlayStation will continue to battle it out hard on a global scale, while the pricey and bulky Xbox will be shoved out of the ring. Sony has the upper hand, though, if only for the sheer number of available games it offers.

Amazing toys

Hi-tech consumer devices will still remain expensive, but with far better features and larger memory capacity. Which only means one thing: work, work, work!

Cyberspeed limits

CPU clock speed will have a hard time breaking into the 5GHZ barrier, as evidenced by Intel's pullout of what was supposed to be the 4GHz Pentium 4.

Titanic cellphone wars

Motorola is aiming for 20-percent market share this year, with a whopping 13 new model introductions. The resurgence of Sony Ericsson and the heavyweight budget of Samsung will also give these two players much higher profiles than ever before. Needless to say, Nokia won't take this sitting down.

Schumi on a shoestring

Karting will see an increase in young, new players thanks to the easy accessibility of Speedzone at The Fort, the continued successes of drivers like Michelle Bumgarner and Matteo Guidicelli, and the tireless efforts of Tuason Racing School in educating aspiring drivers on the nuances of wheel-to-wheel racing.

More music

Apple's iPod will face intense competition from Creative, Samsung and Philips, but the people will stick with Apple's slick player. It's just too cute to be anything but the best, and its monster memory helps, too.

Sights for sore eyes

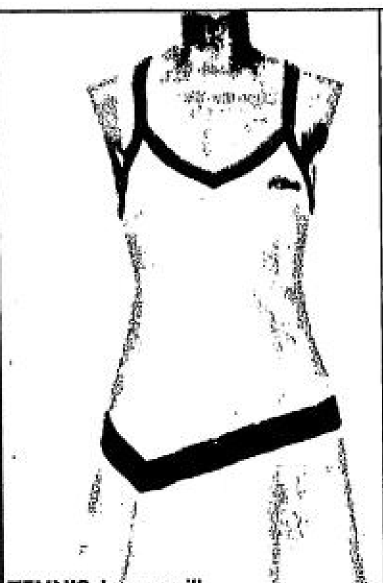
Prices for Japanese- and Korean-made stereos and TVs will continue to drop, including flat-screen devices. However, the market's decreasing purchasing power will force credit card companies to keep offering low- or no-interest financing while retailers will have to trim their margins. That's good news for people with money to spend.

alizza
menu

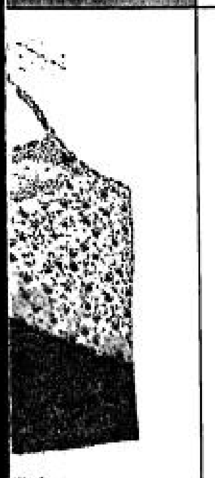
ILLUSTRATION LA

... ay lalong pinasarap!

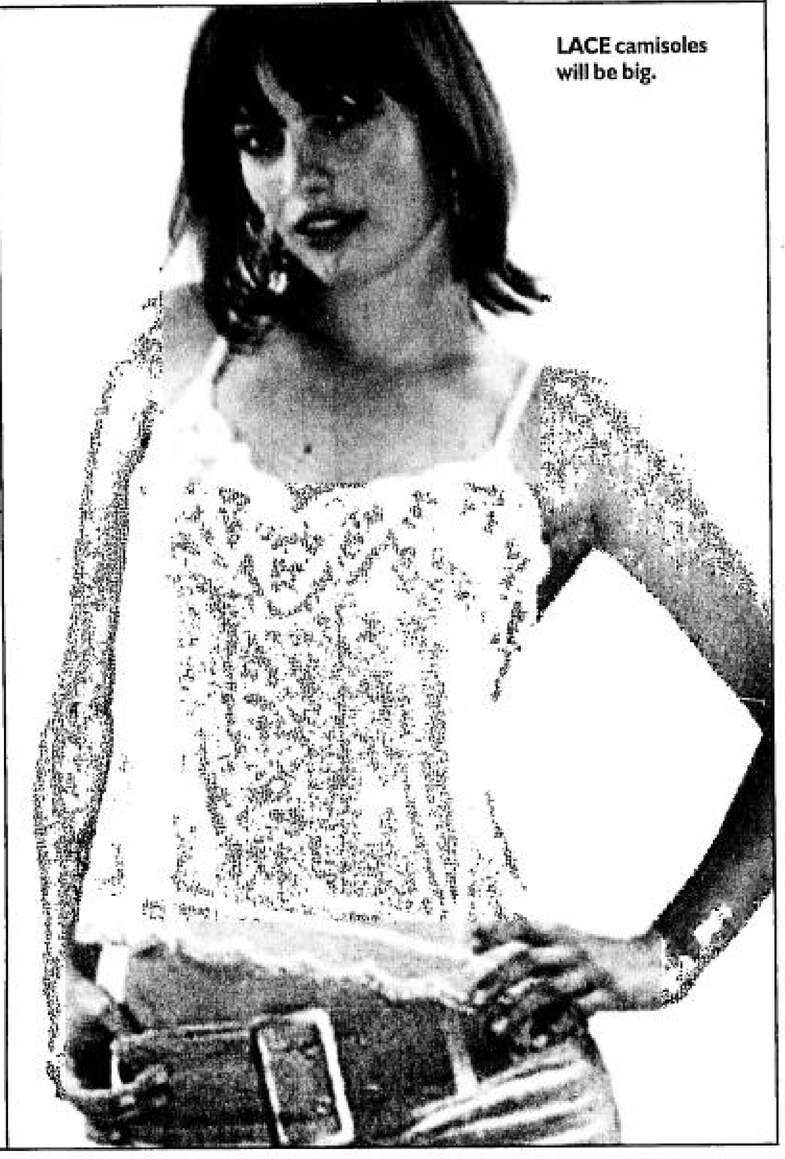
BEST COPY AVAILABLE



TENNIS dresses will make a big splash.



ue.



LACE camisoles will be big.

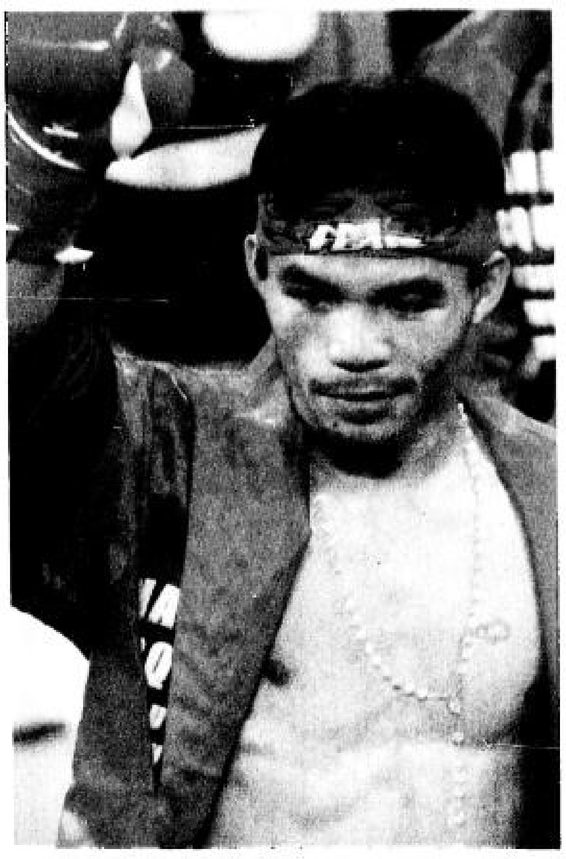
ır with shades of
shades to electric
ups and tanks are
ınine details such
ıdery. Flower gar-
delicate look.

rich-girl look this
inspired by coun-
s such as polo. Ca-
tails, tennis skirts
racks in purple,
qua, pink and or-

res; including cro-
buttons and work-
ok.

ıhoo.com

JENNIFER Rosales



MANNY Pacquiao

Manny loses, J-Ro shines

By Dennis Eroa

"I made a wrong mistake"—Yogi Berra

I'LL go against the tide and say that Manny Pacquiao is going to learn the painful truth when he battles Mexican hero and reigning WBA and IBF titleholder Juan Manuel Marquez on Feb. 26 in Las Vegas.

Pacquiao's hordes of followers will certainly heap scorn on me, but they only have their idol to blame. While Marquez is already grinding it out to prepare for the costly bout, Pacquiao has just wrapped up shooting a sock commercial. And it is safe to say that the lure of the billiards table will be hard to resist for this GenSan native.

Pacquiao will soon learn that 'Dinamita' is far deadlier than a 3K Battery.

Pacquiao's fall from glory will rock Pinoy sports. Headlines will scream blaming only Pacquiao for the defeat.

But the shock will be temporary. Reason: Jennifer Rosales is now mature enough to continue winning in the LPGA.

J-Ro spices her youthful exuberance with the tenacity of a tigress. She's going to be the country's sports ambassador for 2005, and teenagers will copy her fashion style.

Now, here's another bad news. Despite pooling the best available basketball talents, the country will not win this year's 2005 Asian Championships in Doha, Qatar, nor the 2007 ABC event in Beijing.

This means we're not going to the 2006 World Championships in Saitama, Japan, or the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

On the positive side, the UAAP and the NCAA cage wars will continue to delight young and old fans alike.

La Salle with Franz Pumaren sitting on the bench and the champion lineup headed by Mac Cardona is going to keep the UAAP title despite brave challenges from FEU, Adamson and UE.

The NCAA picture is quite hazy. But the Dolphins of PCU should be ahead in the title race, followed by the Knights of Letran.

Salinggawi of UST should be hard to stop in the blockbuster UAAP cheerdancing competitions. UP, however, will fast catch up.

Philippine sports will continue to lag behind even in the SEA Games level. But as a matter of pride, the country's hosting of the 2005 SEA Games is going to be a success despite the lack of funds which translates to lack of infrastructure. Remember the Bayanihan spirit?

Lots of spectacular things can happen in the Year of the Rooster. After all, Henry Dagmil was a nobody when he shattered an almost 'untouchable' long jump mark during last year's National Open at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

Bowling and tae kwon do are capable of producing world champions. Ice skating will continue to reach new heights.

The slow but sure way to find an international badminton star will gain a breakthrough this year, while X-Sports are going to pull in the crowd.

Let me assure you I'm not going to lose sleep if my fearless predictions turn out to be wrong. I can always credit those to experience.

WHATTAMOUTH 2BU!'S CHOICE AWARD

Help create the world's biggest photo mosaic!

EARLY this year, thousands of people puckered their lips and helped the country bag the Guinness World Record for most number of couples kissing simultaneously.

This time, Close-Up gives you another chance to become part of a world record. And there will be no kissing involved (unless you want to, of course). In January next year, Close-Up will attempt to break the record for the Largest Photo Mosaic. And because it'll be using 200,000 pictures to achieve that, it needs your photos.

Yes, your photos.

And since this is such a fun project, 2bU! decided to join in on the excitement by helping Close-Up collect your fab photos.

We want you to send us photos of your "great mouth moments." It can be funny, silly photos of you, your friends and your family. Get creative, have fun.

And to thank you for your efforts, the entries that will qualify will automatically be included in Close-Up's Largest Mosaic.

Eight weekly winners will also be chosen starting today until Jan. 7, 2005. Weekly winners will bring home a gift pack from Close-Up, a Canon Pixma IP1000 Printer and a pair of Converse Chuck Taylors or Converse Gift Certificates worth P2,000.

At the end of the promo, 2bU! will choose a grand prize winner from the eight weekly winners and that lucky reader will be awarded a Canon Powershot A400 digital camera and P5,000 worth of gift certificates from Converse.

The mosaic will be unveiled nationwide on Jan. 29, 2005 and Close-Up will tell you exactly where your picture is located. All qualified entries received within the promo period will also be automatically entered in the Close-Up Whattamouth raffle draws where you can win great prizes like camera phones and P100,000. The grand prize winner will win P1,000,000.

There's no reason not to join. A camera—or even a million pesos—is just a snapshot away.

How to join:

1. In an envelope, enclose the following:

a. A photo of your great mouth moment (any colored photo—at least 3x5—which captures you enjoying life with your mouth, such as laughing, singing, eating, kissing, etc.)

b. Proof of purchase of any of the following:

five new Close-Up sachets (any flavor)

two new Close-Up 25-ml cartons (any flavor)

one new Close-Up 50-ml, 100-ml or 150-ml carton

c. Your personal details—your name, address, contact numbers, age and signature

2. Outside the envelope, write the following:

a. 2bU! Whattamouth! Promo

b. Your name, address and signature

3. Send entries to 2bU!, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces cor. Mascardo and Yague Sts., Makati City.

STADES

NOW WITH RICHER COFFEE FLAVOR
CUT HERE
Great Taste
concentrated coffee granules
Net wt. 100g
Makes 68 cups of rich coffee

Up to 68 cups of coffee per 100g pack!

Bawat granule ng **Great Taste Concentrated Coffee Granules** ay lalong pina-siksik sa sarap at aroma ng kape! Kaya less than a teaspoon lang ang kailangan bawat tasa! Tipid ka sa kape - hindi sa sarap!

Sunod-sunod ang sarap!

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Music for 2005

PEDICAB gets your groove on.

By Maui V. Reyes
2bU! Correspondent

AS MUCH as I'd love to gush about all the new bands and trends to watch out for this year, I thought it would be better to ask some of today's well-known music makers and in-the-know peeps about who they think will make a lot of noise in 2005.

As for me, there are two bands you definitely have to watch out for. Local band Pedicab, which can be seen rocking Admit One Productions' shows, has that Franz Ferdinand-vibe going on that would make you stand up and get your groove on.

Another group worth a spin in your CD is Head Automatica, a disco-funk-rock ensemble headed by Glassjaw vocalist, Daryl Palumbo.

Here are what your fave musicians are predicting will be big this year

And now, what your fave musicians predict will be big in 2005…

Bandang Pinoy—**Mark Escueta, Rivermaya**

More local indie artists releasing new material and the further proliferation of the local rock scene, with bands coming from all over the country! *Kahit wala nang mga* venue *na natitira at madaming namimirata, tuloy-tuloy lang at hinding-hindi mamamatay ang Pinoy rakenroll!*—**Odin Fernandez, Happy Meals**

HEAD AUTOMATICA. You make us dance, baby.

2005 will continue to bring in an abundance of cheap techno and novelty music, all of which will be readily consumed by the mindless. And the new itchyworms! album, of course. Aye, thank you.—**Kelvin Yu, itchyworms!**

It's gonna be bigger than 2004, especially rock. Bands are going to be more creative, More albums, indie or signed, will be coming out!—**Vin Dancel, Twisted Halo**

I think OPM will still rule, and that's very good for everyone in the local music industry. Christian Bautista, Nina and Kitchie Nadal will continue to shine and their music will cross over to Asia. It has actually started. Foreign music overall will still be pop.—**Anne Poblador, Warner Music Philippines**

What's in store for 2005? The long-overdue resurgence of OPM in the mainstream. The next big thing: Sponge Cola has garnered a faithful and rabid fan base made all the more impressive because it was done without the "noypi"-type megasingle or any major label support. I'm also keeping my fingers crossed that my own band Silent Sanctuary will make an impact with our album release this year. Trends that will rule: More experimentation and collaboration between artists of different genres like hip-hop, rock and electronica. As barriers between genres fall, music will ultimately require just two categories: good music and bad music.—**Ian Carandang, Silent Sanctuary**

All the OPM bands will rule this year! *Sana bumalik yung* mid-'90s vibe, *halos lahat ng tao mula* Luzon *hanggang* Mindanao *mahal ang* OPM!-**Mike Elgar, Rivermaya**

OPM will be back in full force, with diversity.—**Zach Lucero, Imago**

There will be no need for genres because music will either be classified as emo or non-emo. Except dance-punk, which will rule the airwaves.—**Jason Caballa, Twisted Halo and Pedicab**

Grammatically correct songs. And a new generation of Sex Bomb Dancers who can actually play their own instruments yet still write crappy songs that turn out to be hits anyway.—**Joey Odulio, Twisted Halo**

I think Joey Odulio is the next big thing.—**Nico Af, Narda**

Aside from the itchyworms!'s second album, Parokya ni Edgar's new album.—**Jugs "I need a new cellphone" Jugueta, itchyworms!**

More independent acts breaking out and establishing themselves on a national level. Plus an explosion of more unconventional ways of marketing music. I think the independent bands are more confident to break out now.—**Jorel Corpus, Kjwan and Happy Meals**

The next big thing is FASHYOWN!—**Diego Castillo, <s>andwich**

Pop will die. People will be curious about electronic music, but rock will still reign. Hip hop will be a sad story still.—**Ian Magbanua, Drip**

Electronic music will get its much-deserved attention and electronic arts will rise and get noticed. Rock will be as strong as ever. New bands will make a name for themselves.—**Cyril, Silverfilter**

Sponge Cola.—**Yan Yuzon, The Mongols**

I think a lot of bands will be pushing themselves and their music in 2005. I'm hoping people will keep their eyes and ears open because I'm sure there'll be lots of new stuff coming out. I think that's the coolest thing about this year. None of us really knows what's coming.—**Marc Abaya, <s>andwich and Kjwan**

KITCHIE Nadal shines.

PLDT myDSL
Hi - Velocity Broadband Internet

Available at SM Malls
Megamall, North Edsa, Southmall, Centerpoint and Lucena

BIG DISCOUNTS
on HOT PCs with PLDT myDSL

PLDT myDSL
Hi - Velocity Broadband Internet

FREE
- Installation
- Printer
- Save up to P11,000 on a Brand New PC
- Hurry only 400 PCs are available

Enjoy fast and reliable internet with a brand new PC. Get massive discounts of up to P11,000 on a fully loaded PC when you avail of any.PLDT myDSL plan. What's more, you also get FREE installation on your PLDT myDSL and a Lexmark printer. Why wait? Visit the PLDT myDSL booth at PLDT Business Offices or designated areas in selected SM Malls.

PLDT myDSL Plan	Speed	Discounted PC Price	Discount/Savings
PLDT MyDSL Plan 1995	Up to 384 Kbps	Php 12,999	Php 7,001 or 35%
PLDT MyDSL Plan 2500	Up to 512 Kbps	Php 10,999	Php 9,001 or 45%
PLDT MyDSL Plan 3000	Up to 768 Kbps	Php 8,999	Php 11,001 or 55%

PC retail price is Php 20,000, inclusive of VAT
Free Printer promo will be applied under DTI NCR # 1877 series of 2004

Mechanics
1. Promo is available at the following SM Malls: Megamall, North Edsa, Southmall, Centerpoint and Lucena.
2. Promo period is from December 24, 2004 to January 9, 2005.
3. A lock-in period of 24 months or two (2) years is required for PLDT myDSL.
4. PLDT myDSL applicant should have a PLDT residential landline service.
5. Should the applicant decide to terminate the service within the lock-in period, a three (3) month MSF depending on subscribed PLDT myDSL plan plus the discount/savings shall be charged.
6. Get the FREE printer when you purchase a Black and White ink cartridge (P950) or a Colored ink cartridge (P1200). The printer can be claimed at the PLDT Business Office.

SEE FLYERS FOR DETAILS

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3427, Series of 2004

PLDT

ENTERTAINMENT Metro
E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Louie C. Camino
Assistant Editor Emmie G. Velarde
Text us your feedback: inquirer ent name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

SHOW AND GROW. "When [facial] lines begin to show and waistlines begin to grow, you are good to go. So I made sure I'd be in another business before I totally disappeared from show biz"

OUT OF IT. "Hiram" co-star Kris Aquino (in red) says of Dina (fifth from left): "You don't know anything [about show biz]. You're no longer fun to be with." With them are (from left) Anne Curtis, Geoff Eigenmann, Heart Evangelista, John Estrada and Mickey Ferriols

Dina Bonnevie plays businesswoman for real

By Pablo A. Tariman
Contributor

IT IS hard to imagine that an acclaimed actress (notably in Lino Brocka's "Gumapang Ka Sa Lusak") and erstwhile television talk show host can work her way to the top of a highly competitive corporate landscape.

Dina Bonnevie (who just played Sofia in the top-rated *teleserye* "Hiram") is into communications, opening subsidiary phone services of a company called Freedom.

She started by selling a few units of the phone, got a wide slice of the clientele, and ended up director for Asia sales and marketing two years ago.

Why did she decide to pay more attention to this business rather than to show business at this time?

"For one, show biz is not a permanent thing," she explained to us during a recent taping. "As they say, when [facial] lines begin to show and waistlines begin to grow, you are good to go. So I made sure I would be in another business before I totally disappear from show biz.

"Also, I couldn't stand where the industry was headed. There was no way I could be in 'pene' movies."

These past few months, she has been a busy executive even while keeping her TV commitments. She plays Kris Aquino's ambition-driven sister in "Hiram." It's like riding two boats at the same time, she said. An hour before her scenes are shot, when she's done with rehearsals, costumes and make-up, Dina is usually tinkering with her laptop, researching or going over business reports.

Out of the loop

"Because of my business schedule, I have no time to socialize on the set," she said. "There are times when shooting brings us to sugar plantations in Tarlac, for instance, and I panic when I am told there are no Internet facilities. But in places where there are [facilities] and it is taking long for the camera people to set up, I head for the nearest Internet café... even when I'm in my costume and wig as Sofia. There are always business details to attend to, so I spend those hours of waiting going through my e-mail and answering them."

For this reason, Dina is hardly in touch with show biz goings-on and completely in the dark about the latest Tinseltown gossip. When Kris turned to small talk between breaks, dropping morsels of show biz chatter, all that Dina could say was, "Is that so?" To which Kris could only sigh in dismay: "*Ano ba*? You don't know anything. You're no longer fun to be with."

Dina makes it clear that even while she was still in show biz full-time, she was hardly the typical product.

She says she tried her hand at business after her initial popularity as one of the hottest Regal babies of the late '70s waned. Her first business venture was an outfit called White Wings, which produced concerts and TV specials. It was her first taste of dealing with prima donnas and soliciting corporate sponsorships. She was also involved in a manning agency called Transtar, which supplied cabin crew and entertainers to luxury ships.

Same principles

What are the pros and cons when an actress goes into business? "I see it as an advantage more than a disadvantage," Dina points out. "You have more persuasive power in business if you are known in show biz. But you have to draw the line between camaraderie and exchange deals. Business is business. Of course, you earn more in show biz. What I earn [as a businesswoman] in four months I can earn in four taping days. But I earn in dollars and I invest it right away. And we pay [the employees] in pesos."

Lessons in patience that she learned as an actress helped her cope better in the corporate world, she says. "The patience I acquired waiting for other stars to show up and for the cameras to grind has proven to be an asset. I have met a lot of prospective buyers and investors who can bully you out of your wits but I've kept my cool. Good memory—honed by memorizing lots of scripts—has helped, too. I [know by heart] corporate laws in Japan and Singapore."

But she insists there is essentially no difference between the mindset of Dina Bonnevie the actress and Geraldyn Bonnevie the businesswoman. She observes the same principles of work to this day, she says.

"My motto in life is to strive for the best and never settle for mediocrity," she says. "My dad always said that work badly done is worse than work undone. That's why I strive to do my best in every endeavor."

Sliding Hammers from Sweden hits Merk's

SHOW TIME

A SWEDISH jazz group called The Sliding Hammers performs in a special show at Merk's Bar Bistro on Jan. 12, Wednesday, with a sensational Swedish jazz guitarist, Andreas Petersson.

The special attraction of the Swedish jazz group are the two trombone-playing sisters, Mimmi Petersson and Karin Hammar.

Karin, who writes most of the arrangements for The Sliding Hammers, is heard in several big bands in Stockholm, including the Hector Bingert Latin Lover Big Band and the Magnus Lindrgren Big Band. She is also the lead trombone in a group called Satin Dolls and in the all-woman Nordic big band called April Light Orchestra.

The music of The Sliding Hammers is a mix of original compositions and songs from the American songbook such as "Softly as in a Morning Sunrise," "The Night Has a Thousand Eyes" and "This Could Be the Start of Something Big."

Jazz guitarist Andreas Petersson has been identified with big names in Swedish jazz since the '90s and has several acclaimed recordings to his credit, such as "Joyrider," "Cookie and the Hawk" and "Duke with a Gibson."

The other members of The Sliding Hammers are acclaimed jazz pianist Mathias Algotsson, bass player Tommy Johnson and drummer Ronnie Gardiner.

The Philippine engagement of The Sliding Hammers was made possible by the Embassy of Sweden, headed by Ambassador Annika Markovic, in cooperation with SAS, Ericsson Microwave System, Mandarin Oriental Manila and Merk's Bar Bistro.

"We will open the new year with The Sliding Hammers, which means Merk's Bar Bistro will see more performances from international jazz groups in 2005," said Richard Merk, who opened Merk's Bar Bistro two years ago.

Among the international celebrities who graced Merk's in 2004 were jazz diva Angela Bofill and Chicago jazz group.

For inquiries on the Jan. 12 performance of The Sliding Hammers, call 757-4720 or 757-4721.

TROMBONE SISTERS. Mimmi Petersson and Karin Hammar

'King of Swing' Artie Shaw; 94

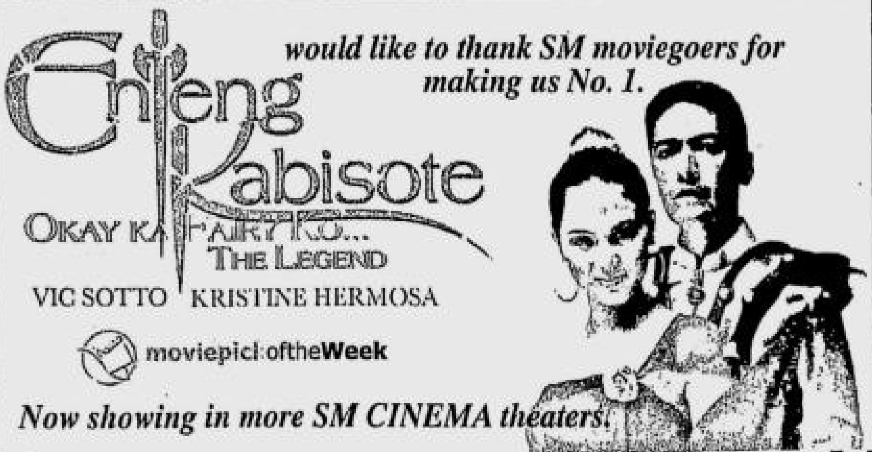
/PAGE 4

Brad Pitt manager in line to be next Paramount boss

/PAGE 4

INQUIRER COMICS Sunday
Favorite comic strip poll
ANO'NG COMICS TRIP MO?!!
a. Ragnarok
b. Darna
c. Garfield
d. Mother Goose & Grimm
e. Pugad Baboy
f. Inday Wanda
g. Zits
h. Full House
① Choose from the titles below:
② Text inqvote <corresponding letter of choice>
Send to 291(Smart) 2949(Globe)
③ Get a chance to win a personal computer, cellphone and exciting gift items from Ragnarok, Fully Booked and Filbars in weekly & grand draws.
Read the the Inquirer Comics every Sunday to find out if you've won The more votes you send in, the more chances of winning! See promo print ads for details

SM CINEMA movietime



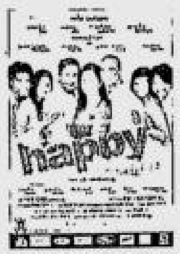
would like to thank SM moviegoers for making us No. 1.

Now showing in more SM CINEMA theaters!

OPENS THIS WEEK

AISHITE IMASU

ENTENG KABISOTE



SO HAPPY TOGETHER

LATIKMAN

MANO PO

SIGAW

SPIRIT OF THE GLASS

PANAGHOY SA SUBA

NOW SHOWING

—THE— PODIUM CINEMA
For Seat Reservation, call 633 8976
LATE NIGHT SCREENING
DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS

1 MANO PO 3
2 SO HAPPY TOGETHER

METRO MANILA

sm megamall
1 MANO PO 3
2 SIGAW
3 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
4 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
5 ENTENG KABISOTE
6 AISHITE IMASU 1941
7 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
8 MANO PO 3
9 LASTIKMAN
10 ENTENG KABISOTE
11 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
12 PANAGHOYSA SUBA

sm city fairview
1 PANAGHOY SA SUBA
2 ENTENG KABISOTE
3 MANO PO 3
4 SIGAW
5 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
6 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
7 ENTENG KABISOTE
8 ENTENG KABISOTE
9 AISHITE IMASU 1941
10 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
11 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
12 LASTIKMAN

sm city manila
1 ENTENG KABISOTE
2 MANO PO 3
3 AISHITE IMASU 1941
4 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
5 SIGAW
6 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
7 PANAGHOY SA SUBA
8 SIGAW
9 ENTENG KABISOTE
10 ENTENG KABISOTE
11 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
12 LASTIKMAN

sm city sta. mesa
1 ENTENG KABISOTE
2 MANO PO 3
3 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
4 PANAGHOY SA SUBA
5 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
6 AISHITE IMASU 1941
7 LASTIKMAN
8 SIGAW
9 ENTENG KABISOTE
10 SO HAPPY TOGETHER

sm city southmall
1 LASTIKMAN
2 AISHITE IMASU 1941
3 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
4 ENTENG KABISOTE
5 PANAGHOY SA SUBA
6 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
7 ENTENG KABISOTE
8 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
9 SIGAW
10 MANO PO 3

sm city north edsa
1 MANO PO 3
2 ENTENG KABISOTE
3 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
4 PANAGHOY SA SUBA
5 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
6 LASTIKMAN
7 AISHITE IMASU 1941
8 SIGAW

sm cinema tutuban
1 SIGAW
2 ENTENG KABISOTE
3 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
4 SO HAPPY TOGETHER

sm supercenter sucat
1 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
2 PANAGHOY SA SUBA
3 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
4 LASTIKMAN

sm city bicutan
1 MANO PO 3
2 ENTENG KABISOTE
3 AISHITE IMASU 1941
4 SIGAW

Movies are subject to change without prior notice · For complete movie schedule, visit www.smcinema.com

CALL! DIAL 833-9999 FOR INFORMATION AND MOVIE LISTINGS, MTRCB RATINGS AND SCREENING SCHEDULES.

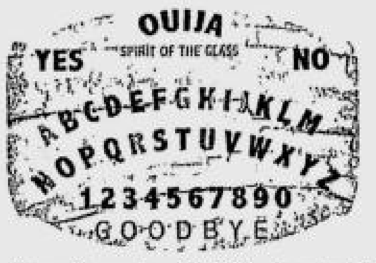
SURF! VISIT US AT www.smcinema.com FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA.

IT'S TIME TO PLAY THE OUIJA AND WIN AT SM CINEMA!

What is the name the spirit murmurs everytime they haunt them in the movie **SPIRIT OF THE GLASS?** The clues can be found below. Can you decipher the message? Watch **SPIRIT OF THE GLASS** to find out.

Subject to MTRCB Rating

Write SPIRIT OF THE GLASS, your answer, name, address, contact details and signature in a piece of paper and drop them at dropboxes located at all SM Cinema for a chance to win **1 of 20 Good Fortune Bracelet** from **Charms & Crystal by Joy Lim.**



Promo Runs: December 20, 2004 - January 7, 2005
NOW SHOWING AT SM CINEMAS!

Albums, gold records, hits from GMA Records in 2004

WITH seven album releases in 2004, as well as three gold record awards, several hit songs, an MTV Pilipinas Award, fresh discoveries and outstanding sales and great music reviews, GMA Records soared on its very first year as the fastest-growing recording company in the country.

In January 2004, GMA Records started it all with the release of the album of its banner artist, Jolina Magdangal. "Forever Jolina" contained certified hits like "Bahala Na," "Kung Kailan Wala Ka Na" and "Sayang" and the theme songs of her hit GMA telenovelas "Kahit Kailan" and "Narito Ang Puso Ko."

JOLINA MAGDANGAL

JENNYLYN MERCADO

YASMIEN KURDI

A few months after its release, the album turned gold, having sold more than 15,000 copies nationwide. Jolina was also voted as the MTV Pilipinas Awards' Favorite Female Artist last July for the music video of "Bahala Na."

GMA Records introduced one of the fresh discoveries of the year, Sipol, the country's newest acoustic band. The seven-member band created a new acoustic sound that can be soft and gentle, hard-edged and heart stomping. Their album "Unplug and Play" was released last May.

Starstruck's Ultimate Female Survivor Jennylyn Mercado also broke into the music scene with her debut album "Living the Dream." The album includes two No. 1 radio hits, "Kahit Sandali," written by premier composer Vehnee Saturno, and the revival duet with Janno Gibbs, "If I'm Not In Love," plus another certified hit, "Sapat Na Ang Minsan."

Jen's album has also turned gold and Jen was also featured as the MTV Pilipinas Rising Star for June.

The popularity of the GMA-7 *fantaserye* "Mulawin" paved the way for the release of "The Mulawin Soundtrack," which has produced the hit single "Ikaw Nga," written and performed by the South Border.

Another GMA Records banner artist, Janno Gibbs, released his album "Seven" last September and Janno was named MTV Artist for October.

GMA Records' rap trio, Ghost 13, released its self-titled debut album in November. The rappers from Zamboanga gave their audiences a new breed of rap—naughty yet wholesome and, more importantly, with advocacy.

To end the year with gratitude, GMA Records released its Christmas offering, "Kapuso sa Pasko," composed of Christmas songs performed by the GMA recording artists. The GMA Netwotk Christmas theme song is performed by Jolina Magdangal.

In 2005, GMA Records will release albums by new artists, including the newest R&B band, Dimsum, Starstruck's First Princess Yasmien Kurdi, and Six-O-Four, the soul trio from Canada.

Ladine's shows extended

LADINE Roxas, Primeline Inc. artist, is starting the year with a bang. "Here I Am... Ladine Roxas," her series of shows that started last December at Merk's Bar and Bistro, has been extended this month.

The new shows are on Jan. 10, 17 (with Tin Arnaldo), 24 and 31 (with Dyords Javier). Shows start at 9:30 p.m.

Ladine's decision to come home to the Philippines and giver her countrymen a taste of her music turned out to be the right one. Her countrymen can now see for herself how she can sing laid-back, crossover songs with same ease that she belts out music festival pieces that won her awards and acclaim in international song festivals.

"My repertoire at Merk's consists of crossover songs, standards from the '70s and '80s," says Ladine.

Unlike in song fests where her audiences watched from afar, Ladine gets up close and personal with them at Merk's.

LADINE ROXAS

She takes them on a trip down memory lane with her covers of Diana Ross' "Touch Me in the Morning," Donna Summers' "Last Dance," Abba's "Dancing Queen," Barbra Streisand's "The Way We Were" and "You Don't Bring Me Flowers" and Patti Austin's "Sweet Love" and "Caught Up in the Rapture."

She will also sing more contemporary songs such as those by Celine Dion and Alicia Keys.

In the middle of this year, she will launch her new album.

Hanford proud of Cesar

HANFORD, a leading undergarment brand, congratulated Cesar Montano on the success of the movie "Panaghoy Sa Suba," which he also directed, in the ongoing 2004 Metro Manila Film Festival (MMFF).

Montano, the leading endorser of Hanford products for the past four years, won the Best Director award during the MMFF awards night held Wednesday.

The movie that was all in Cebuano also took the awards for Best Screenplay (Cris Vertido), Best Cinematography (Ely Cruz), Best Supporting Actress (Rebecca Lusterio), and the prize for the 2nd Best Movie of the Festival.

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
Telephone: 633.2227 / 633.7851 loc. 171
PREMIERE THEATRE
(DOLBY) PANAGHOY SA SUBA
1 (DOLBY) MANO PO 3 GP
2 (DOLBY) ENTENG KABISOTE GP
3 (DOLBY) SPIRIT OF THE GLASS PG13
4 (DOLBY) HAPPY TOGETHER PG13

isetann SUPER CINERAMA
CINERAMA COMPLEX RECTO
tel 733.4238
1. (DOLBY) BAD SIGAW
2. AISHITE IMASU 1941
3. HAPPY TOGETHER
4. SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
5. ENTENG KABISOTE

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781
1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE
3 RESERVE
4 (SDDS) RESERVE
5 RESERVE
6 (DOLBY) RESERVE
7 (DTS) RESERVE
8 RESERVE
9 RESERVE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 MANO PO - 3
2 ENTENG KABISOTE

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) MANO PO - 3
2 HAPPY TOGETHER
3 AISHITE IMASU 1941
4 (DTS) SIGAW

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (DDD) MANO PO
2 (SDDS) ENTENG KABISOTE
3 (DTS) SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
4 GOLD (DTS) PANAGHOY SA SUBA
5 GOLD (DOLBY) AISHITE IMASU 1941
6 GOLD (SDDS) SIGAW
7 GOLD (DOLBY) LASTIKMAN
8 (JR/DOLBY) LASTIKMAN
9 (JR/DOLBY) HAPPY TOGETHER
10 (JR/DOLBY) LASTIKMAN

Masagana CINEMA V
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 PANAGHOY SA SUBA
2 HAPPY TOGETHER
3 LASTIKMAN

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 ENTENG KABISOTE
2 PANAGHOY SA SUBA
3 LASTIKMAN
4 AISHITE IMASU 1941

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas) tel (047) 237.7007
1 (DOLBY) SIGAW
2 AISHITE IMASU 1941

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City)
tel 687.6963 or 72
1 (DOLBY) PANAGHOY SA SUBA
2 (DOLBY) SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
3 (DOLBY) ENTENG KABISOTE
4 (DOLBY) SIGAW

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT
Araneta Center
ALIMALL CINEPLEX
Tel. 911-3101 loc. 8242 / 8281 / 8397
3 (Dolby) SO HAPPY TOGETHER
4 (SDDS) ENTENG KABISOTE
5 (DTS) SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
6 (Dolby) MANO PO 3
7 (Dolby) PANAGHOY SA SUBA

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 LASTIKMAN
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) AISHITE IMASU 1941
5 PANAGHOY SA SUBA

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850.4285
1 ENTENG KABISOTE
2 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
3 PANAGHOY SA SUBA
4 HAPPY TOGETHER
5 (DOLBY) LASTIKMAN
6 SIGAW

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Fight piracy: Watch original 'Kill Bill 2'

BRIDE'S REVENGE. Uma Thurman in "Kill Bill Vol. 2"

EXPERIENCE the thrill and excitement right in the comfort of your home as The Bride continues her bloody revenge in the certified blockbuster, Quentin Tarantino's "Kill Bill Vol. 2."

Now on original copies from Star Records Video, the highly anticipated sequel to Tarantino's "Kill Bill Vol. 1" offers more action and adrenalin rush as well as the tough performance by its lead star, Uma Thurman.

Continuing the storyline which unfolded in "Kill Bill Vol. 1," Vol. 2 is the revenge tale of an expert assassin called The Bride (Thurman), who sets out on a quest to kill her former employer Bill and other members of their assassin circle who had shot and left her for dead at her wedding. The killer squad also killed everyone else in attendance.

When this chapter in the second story begins, The Bride will have already encountered some of her target, and she continues battling her way up the chain of command, knowing it will ultimately lead her to her main goal: to kill Bill.

"Kill Bill Vol. 2" costars David Carradine, Michael Madsen, Daryl Hannah, Gordon Liu and Michael Parks. It is available on original DVD, VCD and VHS formats, and includes a bonus VCD featuring "The Making of Kill Bill Vol. 2."

For inquiries, call Star Records Video, 415-2272 local 3621.

Avoid pirated copies; buy only the original.

KA-BOOSH FOR THE BEST
Ella Guevara, Best Child Actress in the 2004 Metro Manila Film Festival for her performance in "Sigaw," wore a Ka-Boosh to receive her award in the 30th MMFF Awards Night. Ka-Boosh, affordable and stylish formal, casual and active wear for children and adults, is available at Hipzone, Ayala Center Cebu, Market Market, Global City Mall, Festival Supermalls, Ayala Alabang and leading department stores nationwide.

Araneta Center
LEISURE GUIDE

GATEWAY CINEPLEX 10
The First and Only Real Cineplex in the Philippines!
ALL THEATERS ONLY P99 / ADMISSION
DOLBY DIGITAL EX ULTRA SOUND
FULL STADIUM SEATING
Gateway CiNePLEx*10
Level 4, Gateway Mall
NOW SHOWING
ENTENG KABISOTE
1:00 3:55 6:55 9:45
AISHITE IMASU
12:35 2:45 4:55 7:05 9:15
MANO PO 3
12:30 2:45 5:00 7:15 9:30
LASTIKMAN
12:10 1:20 2:30 3:40 4:50 6:00 7:10 8:20
SO HAPPY TOGETHER
1:35 4:00 6:25 8:50
SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
1:15 4:00 6:45 9:30
PANAGHOY SA SUBA
1:55 4:20 6:45 9:10
SIGAW
12:35 2:45 4:55 7:05 9:15

ALI MALL CINEMAS
3 Dolby SO HAPPY TOGETHER 12:45 3:10 5:35 8:00
4 SDDS ENTENG KABISOTE 1:50 4:20 6:50 9:20
5 dts SPIRIT OF THE GLASS 12:35 3:20 6:05 8:50
6 Dolby MANO PO 3 1:35 3:50 6:05 8:20
7 Dolby PANAGHOY SA SUBA 12:45 3:10 5:35 8:00

ARANETA COLISEUM
Jan. 7 / Jan. 9 / Jan. 12 / Jan. 16 — PBA ALL FILIPINO CUP BASKETBALL GAMES
Jan. 29 — Martin & Patti Concert

NEW FIESTA CARNIVAL
OPEN DAILY
Mon-Fri: 2 PM to 10 PM
Sat-Sun & Hol.: 10 AM to 11 PM

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

SIGAW PG13 12:50,3:10,5:30,7:50,10:10	ENTENG KABISOTE GP 12:30,3:00,5:30,8:00,10:30	SPIRIT OF THE GLASS PG13 12:50,3:10,5:30,7:50,10:00
SO HAPPY TOGETHER PG13 12:50,3:10,5:30,7:50,10:10	AISHITE IMASU 1941 PG13 1:20,3:35,5:50,8:05,10:20	MANO PO 3 GP 12:40,3:00,5:20,7:40,10:00

MATINEE SCREENINGS BEFORE 5:00 P.M. - P80.00 - MON. - FRI.

star group of cinemas movie guide IN DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND

starmall EDSA-SHAW	METROPOLIS ALABANG star	starmall LAS PIÑAS
Tel. No. 726.61.50	Tel. No. 850.42.85	Tel. No. 873.50.04
3 Lastikman	1 Enteng Kabisote	1 Sigaw
4 Sigaw	2 Spirit of the Glass	2 Aishite Masu
5 Panaghoy sa Suba	3 Panaghoy sa Suba	
	4 Happy Together	
	5 Lastikman	
	6 Sigaw	

Everyday Family Day! @ Metropolis Cinema Get Free Toms World Tokens for every ticket purchase
For movie schedules visit www.clickthecity.com

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City
For inquiries, call
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1 MANO PO 3 11:10, 1:30, 3:50, 6:10, 8:30, 10:50 GP
2 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS 12:25, 2:55, 5:20, 7:45, 10:20 PG-13
3 ENTENG KABISOTE 12:30, 3:10, 5:50, 8:30, 11:10 GP
4 HAPPY TOGETHER 12:05, 2:35, 5:05 7:35, 10:30 PG-13

THEATRE MALL GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 1 MANO PO 3 GP
CINEMA 2 ENTENG KABISOTE GP
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA • 7224496

MUSIC MUSEUM
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL: 721-6726 OR 721-0635

SHANG CINEPLEX
In Celebration of
the Filipino Filmmaker's Creativity
we present the
2004 MetroManila Filmfest
in Cinemas 1 to 4
December 26, 2004 to January 7, 2005
• MANO PO 3 • ENTENG KABISOTE •
SPIRIT OF THE GLASS • HAPPY TOGETHER •

① MANO PO 3 FS 12.20PM, 2.45PM, 5.10PM, 7:35PM, LMF 10PM (GP)
② ENTENG KABISOTE FS 10.50AM, 1:25PM, 4PM, 6:35PM, LMF 9.10PM (GP)
③ SPIRIT OF THE GLASS FS 12.40PM, 3PM, LMF 5.20PM (PG-13)
④ HAPPY TOGETHER FS 12.40PM, 3PM, 5.20PM LMF 10PM (PG-13)

PREMIERE THEATRE PANAGHOY SA SUBA
FS 12PM 2 30PM 5PM 7 30PM LMF 10PM

Regular Ticket Price
Cinema 1 to 4 P150
Premiere Theatre P285 includes unlimited popcorn and drinks

For inquiries, call 633-2727
or 633-7851 loc. 171
Shangri-La Plaza

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE
MOVIEWORLD
CINEMA ACCESS
635-5555
FOR ALL BRANCHES
www.robinsonsmovieworld.com
MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA 632-9115/16
1 MANO PO 3 • THX 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
2 ENTENG KABISOTE 11:40 2:15 4:50 7:25 10:00
3 LASTIKMAN 11:50 2:25 4:55 7:25 9:50
4 SIGAW 11:40 2:10 4:40 7:10 9:40
5 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS 11:10 1:50 4:30 7:10 9:50
6 SO...HAPPY TOGETHER 11:10 1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00
7 PANAGHOY SA SUBA 11:40 2:15 4:50 7:25 10:00
8 AISHITE IMASU 11:10 1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00
9 SO...HAPPY TOGETHER 12:50 3:00 5:10 7:20 9:30
10 MANO PO 3 11:30 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:30

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12
1 ENTENG KABISOTE 11:15 1:50 4:25 7:00 9:40
2 SO...HAPPY TOGETHER 10:35 12:50 3:05 5:20 7:35 9:50
3 AISHITE IMASU 10:10 12:15 2:15 4:20 6:25 8:50 10:00
4 SIGAW 10:35 12:50 3:05 5:20 7:35 9:50
5 PANAGHOY SA SUBA 10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
6 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS 10:35 12:50 3:05 5:20 7:35 9:50
7 MANO PO 3 10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199
1 MANO PO 3 10:00 12:05 2:15 4:25 6:35 8:45 10:35
2 ENTENG KABISOTE 10:10 12:40 3:10 5:40 8:10 10:30
3 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS 10:35 1:00 3:25 5:50 8:15 10:30
4 PANAGHOY SA SUBA 10:10 12:40 3:10 5:40 8:10 10:30
5 SO...HAPPY TOGETHER 10:35 1:00 3:25 5:50 8:15 10:30
6 LASTIKMAN 10:10 12:40 3:10 5:40 8:10 10:30
7 AISHITE IMASU 10:35 1:00 3:25 5:50 8:15 10:35
8 SIGAW 10:00 12:05 2:15 4:25 6:35 8:45 10:30

NOVALICHES 935-3229/31
1 SIGAW 11:10 1:30 3:50 6:10 8:30
2 MANO PO 3 11:10 1:30 3:50 6:10 8:30
3 LASTIKMAN 10:15 12:45 3:15 5:45 8:25
4 SO...HAPPY TOGETHER 11:10 1:30 3:50 6:10 8:30
5 PANAGHOY SA SUBA 11:00 1:30 4:00 6:30 8:55
6 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS 10:40 1:05 3:30 5:55 8:25
7 ENTENG KABISOTE 10:15 12:40 3:15 5:50 8:25
8 AISHITE IMASU 11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:00

PIONEER 687-5378
1 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
2 SO...HAPPY TOGETHER
3 ENTENG KABISOTE
4 MANO PO 3

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575
1 AISHITE IMASU
2 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
3 ENTENG KABISOTE
4 LASTIKMAN

CAINTA 240-4661
1 MANO PO 3
2 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
3 LASTIKMAN
4 ENTENG KABISOTE

METRO MANILA Film Festival Week
What's Happening
DECEMBER 25 to JANUARY 4
DON'T MISS THE ANNUAL EVENT
IN LOCAL FILM INDUSTRY
THIS DECEMBER
MMFF Entries:
Aishite Imasu • Enteng Kabisote • Lastikman • Mano Po 3
Panaghoy sa Suba • Sigaw • Spirit of the Glass • So...Happy Together

STA. ROSA (049) 837-0907
1 MANO PO 3
2 LASTIKMAN
3 ENTENG KABISOTE
4 SIGAW
5 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS

LIPA (043) 757-3664 (043) 312-5870
1 MANO PO 3
2 ENTENG KABISOTE
3 SIGAW
4 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
5 LASTIKMAN

DASMARIÑAS (046) 852-2125 (046) 416-4332
1 SO...HAPPY TOGETHER
2 PANAGHOY SA SUBA
3 SIGAW
4 AISHITE IMASU
5 LASTIKMAN

ANGELES (045) 892-2348
1 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
2 MANO PO 3
3 ENTENG KABISOTE
4 SO...HAPPY TOGETHER

IMUS (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188
1 MANO PO 3
2 ENTENG KABISOTE
3 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
4 PANAGHOY SA SUBA
5 SO...HAPPY TOGETHER
6 LASTIKMAN

STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (045) 981-5270
1 SIGAW
2 AISHITE IMASU
3 LASTIKMAN
4 SO...HAPPY TOGETHER
5 ENTENG KABISOTE
6 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 (034) 441-0459
1 MANO PO 3
2 LASTIKMAN
3 ENTENG KABISOTE
4 SIGAW
5 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
6 PANAGHOY SA SUBA

ILOILO (033) 336-8070
1 MANO PO 3
2 LASTIKMAN
3 ENETNG KABISOTE
4 SIGAW
5 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
6 PANAGHOY SA SUBA

The Perfect Gift All Year Round
A Pre Paid Movie Pass to the Hottest Seats in town.
Get Special discounts for volume purchases!
For marketing and events/reservations please call Marketing Services Department at 687-7945 to 47 locals 14 and 15

Brad Pitt manager in line to be next Paramount boss

LOS ANGELES—Hollywood deal-maker Brad Grey, an executive producer of the hit television show "The Sopranos" and manager of Brad Pitt, is in line to take over Paramount Pictures, a once-great studio that has fallen on tough times, news reports said on Sunday.

Grey, 47, has emerged as the leading candidate to succeed Sherry Lansing as head of the Viacom Inc.-owned studio, whose current films include "Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events" and "The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie."

While there is no guarantee that Grey will move to Paramount since the complex talks are at a delicate stage, a deal could be announced as early as this week, the reports said. Grey, the chair and owner of talent management firm Brillstein-Grey Entertainment, must first cut his numerous ties with clients and productions.

News of the talks, which was broken over the weekend by the Los Angeles Times and Wall Street Journal, stunned many in Hollywood since Grey has limited movie-making experience.

Among his credits is the bomb "What Planet Are You From," starring estranged former client Garry Shandling.

BRAD GREY

"No studio in memory has ever brought in a head of production so lacking in formal filmmaking credentials or corporate experience," Variety editor in-chief Peter Bart, himself a former Paramount executive, wrote in his trade paper's Monday edition.

Recent turkeys

Still, Bart noted that Grey—whom he estimated was worth "well north of $200 million"—has prospered as a loner.

"Given his calm, thoughtful demeanor and reputation for honesty and candor, Grey has abundant allies in the entertainment community," Bart said.

Representatives of both Paramount and Viacom declined to comment on Sunday. Grey was out of town and unavailable for comment.

> 'No studio in memory has ever brought in a head of production so lacking in formal filmmaking credentials or corporate experience,' says Variety

Paramount, famed for such movies as "The Godfather" films, "Chinatown," "Titanic," and the "Mission: Impossible" series, has suffered through a bad patch. Its recent turkeys include the "Tomb Raider" movies, the "Alfie" remake and the ambitious special effects saga "Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow."

Lansing, who has served as chair of the Paramount Motion Picture Group since 1992, announced in November that she planned to retire at the end of 2005. She denied there was any connection to the box-office drought, but her announcement came shortly after a shake-up in the Viacom ranks.

New era's dawn

Viacom Chair and CEO Sumner Redstone in June promoted MTV Networks chief Tom Freston to co-chief operating and co-president (along with CBS chief Leslie Moonves), with a mandate to revive the studio. In a show biz rarity, Paramount has a reputation for being tightfisted, and top filmmakers have accordingly avoided the historic Hollywood lot when seeking backers for their projects.

In looking to hire Grey, Freston is signaling the dawn of a new era, industry observers said.

A native New Yorker, Grey began his career running errands for a concert promotion company owned by Miramax Films co-founder Harvey Weinstein. Hired by veteran manager Bernie Brillstein in the mid-1980s, Grey was made a full partner in 1991. Four years later, Brillstein stepped back from daily management and sold his stake to Grey.

In addition to Brad Pitt, Brillstein-Grey's clients also include Nicolas Cage and Adam Sandler. All three currently have movies in the Top 10 at the North American box office.

Television shows that have been produced by the firm and Grey also include "The Larry Sanders Show," "NewsRadio" and 'Just Shoot Me." *Reuters*

'Meet' the new record

LOS ANGELES—North American box office champ "Meet the Fockers" helped push overall movie sales to a new record in 2004, according to studio estimates on Sunday.

"Meet the Fockers," a lowbrow family comedy starring Robert De Niro, Ben Stiller and Dustin Hoffman, easily retained the No. 1 position at the New Year holiday box office.

It sold about $42.8 million worth of tickets in the three days beginning Friday, setting two records in the process.

Its total after 12 days rose to $163.4 million.

SHOW TIME

"Meet the Parents," released in October 2000, ended its run with $166 million.

Both films were distributed in North America by Universal Pictures, a unit of General Electric Co.-controlled NBC Universal, which split the budget with closely held DreamWorks SKG.

For the year, ticket sales totaled $9.4 billion, up 1.4 percent from the 2003 take of $9.27 billion, according to tracking firm Exhibitor Relations.

The previous record was $9.32 billion in 2002.

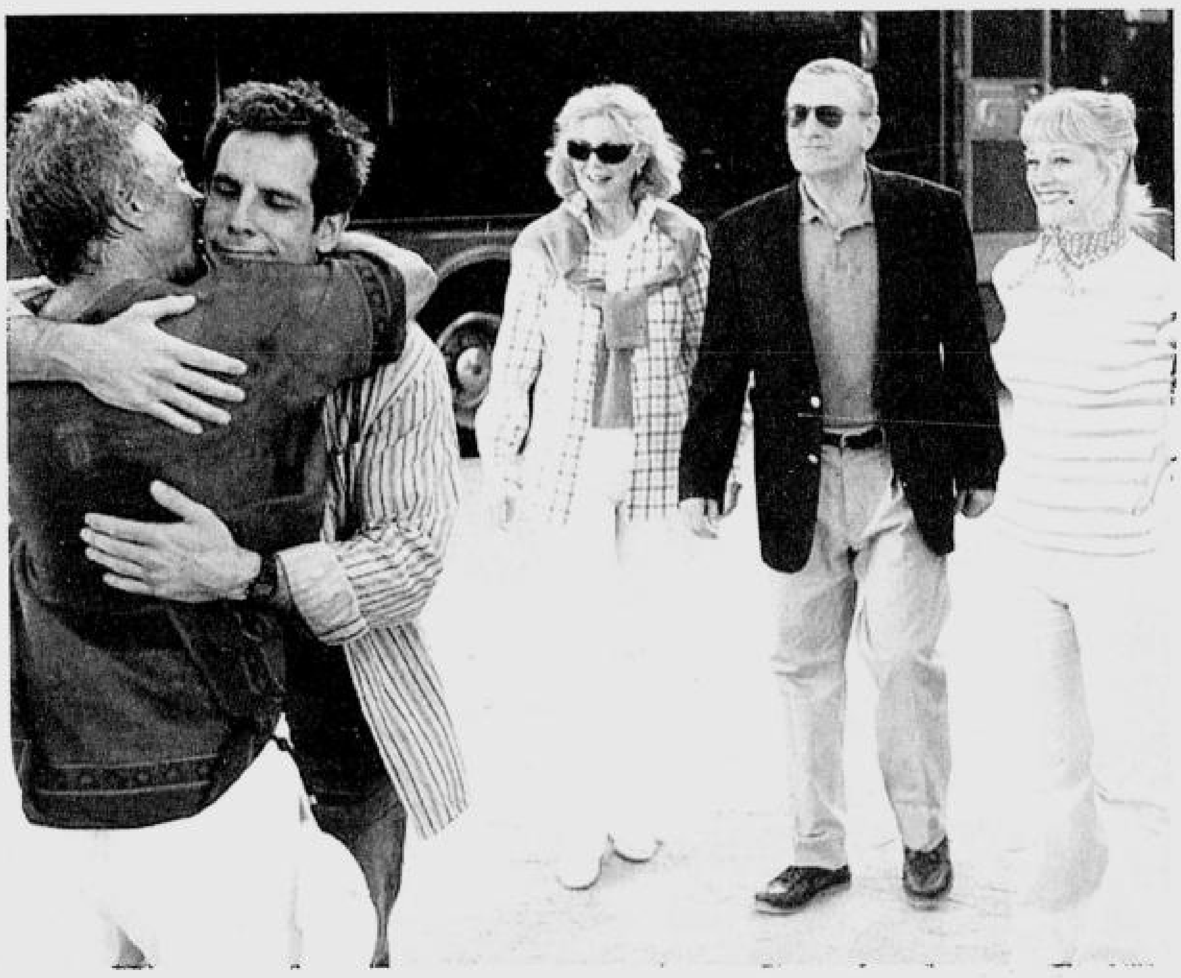
Higher ticket prices were responsible for the increase, as fewer people went to the movies for a second consecutive year, the firm said. It estimated that 1.51 billion tickets were sold last year, down 1.7 percent from 1.54 billion in 2003. The contemporary record of 1.6 billion was set in 2002.

Exhibitor Relations said more people went to the movies in the 1930s and 1940s, when upward of 80 million tickets were sold weekly.

Highly anticipated

The most popular movie in 2004 was "Shrek 2," which grossed $436 million, followed by Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ" with $373 million and "Spider-Man 2" with $370 million.

Exhibitor Relations president Paul Dergarabedian said highly anticipated releases for 2005 include the resurrection of the "Batman" franchise, the final "Star Wars" movie, and remakes of "King Kong" by Peter Jackson and "The War of the Worlds" by Steven Spielberg.


"MEET the Fockers" the sequel earned almost as much after two weekends as "Meet the Parents" drew in its entire run.

"Meet the Fockers" set two records over the weekend. Its Friday haul of $12.2 million was the best for New Year's Eve, beating "Cast Away's" four-year-old record of $8.5 million.

It continued its winning ways the next day with sales of $18 million, surpassing the New Year's Day record of $12.8 million set last year by "The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King."

Universal estimated "Fockers" accounted for about one-third of weekend box office sales.

'Lemony' steady

As usual for this time of the year, there were no new releases in the top 10, and the rankings were little changed.

The children's comedy "Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events," starring Jim Carrey, held steady at a distant No. 2 with $14.7 million, taking its total to $94.8 million after three weekends.

Director Martin Scorsese's Howard Hughes biographical film "The Aviator," starring Leonardo DiCaprio as the reclusive billionaire, rose one place to No. 3 with $11.2 million. It has earned $31.1 million after two weekends in moderate release.

The TV cartoon adaptation "Fat Albert" fell one to No. 4 with $10.7 million, for a nine-day haul of $33.9 million.

The all-star crime caper "Ocean's Twelve" was stable at No. 5 with $9.2 million. After four weeks, it has earned $106.9 million—about $30 million less than what its 2001 predecessor "Ocean's 11" had made at the same time.

"Lemony Snicket" was released by Paramount Pictures, a unit of Viacom Inc. "The Aviator" was released by Miramax Films, a unit of Walt Disney Co. "Fat Albert" was released by Twentieth Century Fox, a unit of News Corp.'s Fox Entertainment Group Inc.

"Ocean's Twelve" was released by Warner Bros. Pictures, a unit of Time Warner Inc., which partnered on the project with Village Roadshow Ltd. *Reuters*

Kristin Scott Thomas knighted by France

PARIS—British actress Kristin Scott Thomas, French fashion designer Emmanuel Ungaro, and French politician Nicholas Sarkozy have won entry into France's prestigious Legion of Honor.

The three were named to the post of knight, the first of five ranks, when the Official Journal published a list of honorees on Saturday.

Ungaro, 71, has been a fixture on the international fashion scene for decades and is known for styles like tailored jackets with dressy evening outfits and frills.

Scott Thomas, 44, co-starred in the 1996 Oscar-winning movie "The English Patient," and is to appear alongside Joseph Fiennes in the upcoming adventure epic "Man to Man."

Sarkozy is head of French President Jacques Chirac's ruling Union for a Popular Movement party and widely seen as a rising star in French politics.

The Legion of Honor accolade recognizes distinguished service to France.

Among other honorees, Adm. Philippe de Gaulle, the son of late French President Charles de Gaulle, was promoted to the top rank of grand cross. Louis Schweitzer, the chair of carmaker Renault, was promoted to the middle grade of commander. *AP*

THOMAS

SHAW was the first major white bandleader to hire a black female vocalist, Billie Holliday, for a critical period.

'King of Swing' Artie Shaw; 94

WASHINGTON— Artie Shaw was a top World War II jazz musician who defined the era's sound and dance, and was an early white bandleader to racially integrate his orchestra.

Shaw died Thursday at 94 at his home in Newbury Park, near Los Angeles.

He was an early media star, and although the handsome Shaw was a matinee idol, fame did not suit him well. After whirlwind romances and marriages to actresses Ava Gardner and Lana Turner, he quit show business in 1954, when the glamour overtook the music.

"I was very uncomfortable," he told National Public Radio in a 2002 interview. "I played the role called Artie Shaw. People [ask] me for autographs, so I [say], 'I got out of the Artie Shaw business about 50 years ago.' That's why I walked out. I walked out of the business at my peak. I quit."

Born Arthur Jacob Arshawsky in Manhattan in 1910, Shaw took up the clarinet when he was growing up in New Haven, Connecticut, and in 1925 joined a dance band.

He worked in Cleveland learning the art of arranging, and in Chicago discovered the work of Igor Stravinsky and Claude Debussy, classical composers that would lend depth to Shaw's bands and the orchestrations.

However, the swing that set Shaw apart from dance orchestras of the period, known as "big bands" that toured the United States, was something he learned by jamming with African-American musicians in Harlem.

Shaw worked in New York's radio and recording business as a studio musician, but became disillusioned with the business and spent the first part of the 1930s on a farm in Pennsylvania, chopping wood and teaching himself how to write—prose, not music.

He made a dramatic return to New York's music scene in 1936, going head-to-head with established headliners like Bob Crosby and Tommy Dorsey.

Shaw was the first major white bandleader to hire a black female vocalist, blues singer Billie Holliday, for a short but critical period.

In 1938, his first big hit was Cole Porter's "Begin the Beguine," with Holliday on vocal, which made Shaw a rival to Benny Goodman, whose music was "hotter" than Shaw's easy, danceable swing.

Shaw became the "King of Swing," as Begin the Beguine topped the charts and his band toured dance halls around the United States, pulling in some $50,000 a week—half a million dollars today.

Spooked by the publicity, Shaw hid from the public in Mexico. But in 1940, his second big hit, "Frenesi," sparked a US tour for his band.

Shaw broke up the band a few months later, again a victim of its success, but not before recording classic tunes that included "Star Dust," "Moonglow," "Dancing in the Dark" and "Concerto for Clarinet."

He enlisted in the Navy in 1942, and was immediately asked to put together a dance band in the Pacific theater, which primed sailors returning from the war for the sound of his post-war band with trumpeter Roy Eldridge, "Little Jazz."

He organized two more bands before in 1954 shelving his clarinet for the next 30 years. He retired to a house in Spain before returning to California to pen the second of three novellas.

Shaw was an expert marksman and fly fisherman, but he never forgot the clarinet.

"It's just a piece of wood, you know, with holes in it and they put these clumsy keys on it and you're supposed to try to take that and manipulate it with throat muscles and chops ... and try to make something happen that never happened before," he said.

"And when you do, you never forget it. It beats sex, it beats anything." *AFP*